

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaetical Affairs.

FAIR FIGHTING.

Now that the people of the United Kingdom are actively preparing for the General Election, which will probably be held towards the close of autumn, we see no service we can render to the Liberal cause likely to be more useful than that of clearing their minds of some at least of those errors of thought, and mistakes of practical judgment, which are so apt to exert a baleful influence at a time of intense political excitement. We heartily apologise, indeed, for the seeming presumption of giving advice with this purpose in view to many who are perfectly competent to play a worthy part in the ensuing struggle without any assistance of ours. Nevertheless, the crisis is so peculiar, and is fraught with such momentous and far-reaching consequences, that we hope to be absolved from the possible imputation of conceit, although we trespass beyond the bounds prescribed by the etiquette of modesty in urging considerations and duties which appear to us to demand special attention. True, we cannot expect to do much, and but that we are confident that no legitimate effort in the direction of what is good in itself can be finally lost, no estimate we have formed of our own qualification to offer counsel, would have prevailed upon us to do so. All we ask now is, that so far as the obligations we are about to enforce in this, and it may be, in two or three following numbers of the *Nonconformist*, commend themselves to a sense of right, they may be allowed all their force, irrespectively of the quarter from which they are presented; and that so far as they fail in this regard they may be rejected.

Fight fairly! This is the first admonition we wish to enforce upon all the friends of religious equality. The cause demands it—the true success of that cause will render it imperatively necessary. We go for justice—justice in its bearing upon religious matters—justice, in the first instance, to Ireland, because Ireland has long and grievously suffered from a policy of injustice. The main question which will be referred to the new and enlarged constituencies of the three kingdoms—the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church—touches very closely arrangements which have for their professed end the spiritual well-being of a large section of her Majesty's subjects. No doubt, we shall approach the question on its political side, but we cannot approach it at all, even as

citizens, without leaving the trace of our foot-steps upon what we may roughly describe as a religious ground. Whether we so mean it or not, whether we like it or dislike it, every step we take in pursuance of our object will illustrate or obscure the moral beauty of Christianity. The cause is one in which no effort we may make can be wholly divested of religious significance. It is of the last importance, therefore, that whatever we do to promote it, should be as closely as possible in harmony with its character. Even an exclusively secular treatment of a matter involving a spiritual institution, should be governed by motives, and conducted in a spirit, specially befitting the ulterior consequences which may come from it. Therefore, we put in the forefront of our advice to any who will heed us, an earnest exhortation to "fight fairly."

The settlement upon the soundest possible basis of the ecclesiastical relations of the State to Ireland, eagerly as it is to be desired, self-denyingly and laboriously as it ought to be worked for, may yet be accomplished at too heavy a cost. If by the means resorted to for gaining over or retaining public opinion in its favour—if by the methods employed to secure for it a majority of votes at the poll—if by the motives to which appeal is made, or by the spirit which is roused to carry it to victory, we should utterly demoralise the constituent bodies of this realm, not even the greatness, the gain, or the high spiritual character of our design, will compensate for the evil we shall have inflicted on the country. We may endure for awhile the bad consequences of temporary defeat. We may surmount them. In the long run we may extract good out of them; but we cannot easily bear or remedy the results which will certainly follow—not on this question only, but on all questions—any course of action which will deprave the political conscience of the people. England will have a career to run long after this and kindred matters have been disposed of. Let us not, even for the sake of disposing of them according to our best judgment, act upon the pernicious principle that the end sanctifies the means, and thereby enfeeble and corrupt the moral character of the population.

For the next three or four months, it is to be hoped, we shall all be employing our influence with a view to the determination of the next election. Some there are, on both sides, who will contend that "the devil must be fought with his own weapons," and that to do "a great right," it will be indispensable that we consent to do "a little wrong." We would leave such maxims to the exclusive acceptance of our opponents. We, at least, ought not to receive them with approbation. We should lend them no manne of countenance. We must repudiate them with indignant scorn. Meanness never yet served (unless, unwittingly, and, we may add, unwillingly) a noble end. Duplicity, craft, falsehood, disingenuousness, intrigues, evasions, shuffling, legerdemain, may possibly win some votes, but will also sully the cause we desire to promote. If we cannot win our battle without having recourse to foul weapons, let us make up our minds to bear the loss of it. It cannot be for long. There is an inevitable reaction in favour of all that bears upon the face of it the impress of manliness, uprightness, and integrity. It would be as well a blunder as a crime to asso-

ciate the rendering of "Justice to Ireland," and still more of, the establishment there of "Christian willinghood," with reminiscences of deeds for which we ought to blush. No, no! let us have no unfair fighting—nothing to desecrate the lofty purity of our aims—no doing of evil that good may come. We are entering upon a new political era. We shall be called to deal with problems of highest import both for ourselves and for the world. For many years to come, politico-ecclesiastical questions will press for careful consideration, and for wise statesmanship. For God's sake, let us do the utmost we can to prevent their being handled by men whose fingers have been wont to dabble in dirt. We may, to a great extent, be unsuccessful, but let us see to it that we do not knowingly soil a noble cause by our immoral methods of trying to help it forward.

Fight fairly! We will illustrate what we mean by an example or two of what appears to us to be foul fighting. In the *Record* of Friday last, we find a letter headed "Assassination and Popery." It bears the signature of "William Brock," and is dated "Bishop Waltham." It contains the following paragraph:—"An assassination is emphatically a Romish crime, and chiefly amongst those whom the Papacy has nursed will its perpetrators be found. Hence it has prevailed in Ireland, and has been fostered there by that system of sacerdotal imposture to which our statesmen, of all shades of politics, have of late years thought it expedient and manly to submit. . . . Nothing will satisfy the ultramontane faction but the extermination of the Protestants; and the perpetual surrender of principle without the purchase of peace, is a policy as dangerous to the empire as it is cowardly and contemptible." Our readers will know that it is from no sympathy whatever with ultramontanism or simple Romanism, nor from any liking to priestly pretensions, that we denounce the infamy of this passage, written hardly a fortnight back with the evident aim of influencing votes at the next election. The very same sheet contains another letter from "A Lancashire Incumbent," quoting a few strong passages from "The Nonconformist Sketch Book," and asking Mr. Gladstone, in allusion to what he said of Mr. Miall in the House of Commons in a recent debate, whether he has read that book, and if so, what is to be said of his truthfulness and candour in giving Mr. Miall credit for "tenderness and liberality," but forgetting to say that the work was written twenty-seven years ago, that for twenty years at least it was allowed to remain out of print, that the author republished it after the last Bradford election because there, as well as elsewhere, isolated quotations were made from it, as they are in this letter, to make an unfair impression upon susceptible Churchmen, and that in the Preface to the last edition the writer explains how he came to use strong language on the subject, in what restricted sense he used it, and how he has long seen reason to exercise more courtesy and charity in characterising what he deems to be mistaken ecclesiastical systems. To have done this would not have suited the reverend gentleman's purpose, which was to disparage Mr. Gladstone. To use the book without doing it, is just that shade of the "suppression of truth" which seems to be approved by some clerical consciences, especially when their object is to exalt the union of Church and

State. Now, this sort of thing we trust the friends of Free Churchism will eschew as poison in the pending contest. It can find no valid excuse. It is unmanly. It certainly ought to be unclerical. It will, we trust, be unknown among Liberals of every shade. It cannot come under the description of "fair fighting."

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

We have great pleasure in directing attention to a pamphlet which has just made its appearance, and which kindles in our thoughts a hope of Irish Presbyterianism. The pamphlet is from the able pen of Dr. McCosh, and is entitled, "The Duty of Irish Presbyterians to their Church at the Present Crisis, &c." Dr. McCosh in the thirty-two pages of this small but exhaustive work, reviews the ecclesiastical position of Ireland as respects Irish Presbyterianism. Dr. McCosh, we are glad to see, anticipates the withdrawal of the *Regium Donum*. He says, plainly that there is no choice left as respects the endowment of Roman Catholicism and the non-endowment of all Churches. He reminds the members of his own Church, that supposing the disendowment to take place, they would be placed only on a level with the Churches of the United States and the Colonies, the Free Church of Scotland and the Nonconformist Churches of Great Britain. Dr. McCosh proceeds to develop a scheme of self-support in connection with Presbyterianism in Ireland. That scheme we do not pretend to criticise. It is evidently framed with great thoughtfulness, and Dr. McCosh is a far better judge than we are as to whether it is suitable to the conditions of his denomination. In the sentiments of one paragraph, the last, we entirely concur. These are expressed by Dr. McCosh in the following language:—

I have hopes of much incidental good likely to arise from this crisis, if only we have faith and act a faithful part. The event in Providence will call forth a spirit of zeal and liberality in the Irish Episcopal Churches and the Irish Presbyterian Churches such as they have never exhibited before. I speak of the Irish Episcopal Church, because I have an excessive longing to see a Church, embracing a large body of the upper classes, working a General Sustentation Fund, and using its ample resources, and putting forth its full energies, for the voluntary support of its clergy. I have an idea that such a Church will exhibit some noble features which cannot be expected in the poorer and more struggling Churches; more especially in the way of encouraging a higher refinement of mind, and tone, and manners in the ministers of religion, such as are supposed to be found only in established Churches; and this while it has all the seal of Nonconformist communities. We are for ever taunted with the *vulgarity of Dissenters*, but the persons who reproach us, forget that this vulgarity, real or supposed, has arisen not from their being non-established, but simply because the highest offices in our Universities and upper schools have been studiously denied them; and because the upper classes have abandoned them, as being taught that they would thereby promote the cause of social order—and not being sufficiently shrewd to perceive that a Church promotes social order, not because it is endowed, but because it is a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the New Testament which contains His laws and His precepts. I have an idea that a Free Church, containing within it our educated and our refined classes, may tend to raise all other Churches to a higher social status, possibly even to a higher level of liberality.

I cherish a higher hope. I have an expectation that the barriers which at present separate them being broken down, the Churches of Christ in our land will be brought to a better understanding, and Protestantism will exhibit before our Roman Catholic population a visible unity such as she has not been able hitherto to display.

It is satisfactory to find that the most eminent member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland can write in this manner, and we may be quite sure, that when a leader takes such a course, he does not do so without assurance that he has at least some followers.

We may take it, that this is one desertion of the Established Church in Ireland, and the manner in which Wesleyans are now writing of that Church, is an indication of another desertion. The *Watchman* of last week deals with the "No Popery" cry. It is only in Evangelical Church and in Wesleyan circles that this cry needs to be referred to; for in those circles only has it any power. It is with some gratification, therefore, that we see the article in the *Watchman*, "Which is the 'No Popery' party?" and we hope that the article will do good amongst the *Watchman's* co-religionists, for, if our information be correct, the East Kent election at least, was lost by the votes of Wesleyans, who were led astray by this cry. The *Watchman* now reviews the speeches of Ministers on this question, and then says,—

It passes any plain man's understanding to conceive how this speech, or the Irish Chief Secretary's published correspondence with Archbishop Leahy and his brother prelate, supports the Prime Minister's bold assertion that Government never did contemplate the endowment of the Catholic University. It is as clear as the light that a partial, or tentative, and not a small endowment was designed as the first experiment; while the question of the complete endowment of a sectarian Roman Catholic University, "with a phantom train of unlimited colleges" (as Mr. Gladstone said), was to be

deferred until the scheme, with all its vested interests, had silently grown up into a frowning institution, from which Government inspection and control were, by the original contract, for ever to be repelled. Our space does not permit us to trace throughout all their windings the threads of an intricate and partly underground negotiation between her Majesty's Ministers and the representatives of the Irish hierarchy. We have said enough, however, to illuminate some of the points on which Ministerial organs raise their "No Popery" orifices. May we respectfully suggest one doubt to our highly-esteemed friends of the Evangelical party in the Church of England:—Do they think that their interests, their honour, and their principles are indubitably secure in the flexible fingers of the present Premier?

Some time ago we called attention to the extraordinary pace at which Austria appeared to be striding towards a degree of religious liberty which, as yet, is unknown even in that land of religious toleration called England. And it is now quite unquestionable that Austria has outstripped us in our own race. She enjoys, at the present moment, more religious equality than Englishmen enjoy—Englishmen, that is to say, who do not belong to the State Church. The following is the description, by the *Times* correspondent, of the results of the new ecclesiastical law:—

The new laws on marriage and schools have received the Imperial sanction, and the Concordat exists no more. The Imperial sanction was given on the 25th, and yesterday morning the official *Wiener Zeitung* announced it to the people of the empire. The laws are, perhaps, not quite all that could be desired, but they remove all that was objectionable in the Concordat. Henceforth, clerical jurisdiction in matrimonial matters is at an end, and in this respect, as well as in others, civil courts are to decide according to the Civil Code. If any priest should throw in the way of marriage obstacles not founded in the law, the parties can be legally married by the civil authorities. In all cases of separation and divorce henceforth to be concluded, it is likewise the civil law which is to decide. The supreme direction in matters of education is to be exercised by the State; only the religious education remains in the hands of the clergy of the different confessions. Public schools are open to all without difference of religion. In mixed marriages parents may agree about the religion of their children as they please; if there is no such agreement the sons follow the religion of the father, the daughters that of the mother. Illegitimate children follow that of the mother. After the fourteenth year of age every one is free to change his religion only certain formalities are to be observed. The members of one Church cannot be forced in any way to contribute to the wants of another, unless such obligation is founded on patronage or private contract. The articles of the law by which apostates from Christianity are disinherited, as well as that by which the attempt to induce a Christian to change his religion is punished as a crime, are abolished. No religious community can refuse a decent burial to persons of another religious confession in places where no burial-ground exists of that confession. No one can be forced to abstain from work during the *fast* days of a religious confession not his own, but every one is obliged to abstain from whatever might interfere with the public worship of any religion.

As regards marriage we stand on an equality with Austria; but as regards support to other people's religion, and as regards education and burial, we are now far below her. The reason of this is, that of all the intellects in this world the most stubborn, the most ignorant, and the most obtuse, is the Tory intellect of England. Had that power not been overweighted, England would now have been a second Spain, or, as might have happened, a second United States.

As was most naturally to be expected, the Presbyterians of Scotland—at least some of them—are now discussing the question whether the Established Church of Scotland embraces the majority of the people. There is a carefully-written letter upon this subject in an organ of the Free Church of Scotland—the *Presbyterian*—of this week. The writer goes over all the statistics of the question—prison, marriage, education, and worship, and he comes to the conclusion that the worshippers outside are double the number of worshippers inside of the Establishment. He adds:—

The truth becomes more palpable when reduced to detail, and so contemplated. Comparing the Establishment, not with the whole body of Protestant worshippers, as is done above, but with single denominations, it appears that in the fifty-three cities, towns and burghs of Scotland, the Free Church worshippers predominate in twenty-seven; the United Presbyterian Church in fifteen; and the Establishment only in eleven. In regard to the counties again (thirty-three in number), it is found that the Establishment has the majority in fourteen (in four of them the predominance is very small). The Free Church predominates in twelve; and the United Presbyterian Church in seven. Thus, even in the counties, where the Establishment is strongest, it is outnumbered if the Free and United Presbyterian Churches are combined, not to speak of others. It claims fourteen; they, on the same principle, claim nineteen such divisions of the land. It is notorious that, over the four northern counties of the mainland the Establishment does not deserve the name even of a skeleton. Members of Parliament who annually go down to the Highlands for shooting, know the real state of the Establishment in the North much better than the friends of the Establishment in the Lowlands. It may be said the fact is appealed to are seventeen years old, and that the Established Church has made great progress towards recovery since. But the first eight years after the Disruption were the years of greatest zeal to recover, and we have seen the result in the Census of 1851. Any way, whatever progress has been made by the Establishment, or may be claimed by her friends, the other bodies have advanced not less rapidly. The facts of church building, of contribution, and others which I could add if space permitted, prove that,

even to keep abreast of the progress of the other denominations, the Establishment would need all the progress that can be claimed for her. I cannot now adduce these facts. They shall be forthcoming if required. There is nothing, then, in the state of denominations in Scotland now to disturb their relative position in 1851. And the conclusion of the whole matter is, that the Established Church must not boast of her numbers, and that the Lord Advocate has room for revising his Church estimates.

We used to be of opinion—with the Duke of Wellington—that the Scotch Church would be the first to be disestablished, but recent events have altered our judgment, and as we see even Free Churchmen arraying themselves against the Establishment, we begin to believe that the Scotch Establishment will be the second instead of the first.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

BLACKHEATH.—A crowded meeting, convened in favour of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, took place in the Alexandra Hall, at Blackheath, on Wednesday night. Sir John Lubbock occupied the chair, supported by several Irish clergymen and Nonconformists, Sir John Gray, M.P., and others. The chairman, in commencing the business, observed that, without wishing to cast any slur upon, or to impugn in any way, the clergy of the Established Church in Ireland, the majority of the meeting would probably agree that, in justice and truth, a Church opposed to the opinions of the people ought to be removed. The speech was received with some cheers, and very considerable manifestations of disapproval by clergymen who, although the admission was by ticket, had gained free access to the hall. The Rev. Alexander King rose to move the first resolution, to the effect that the meeting, believing the Irish Church to be a great injustice to the people of that country, rejoices that the House of Commons has by a large majority supported Mr. Gladstone in his efforts for the disestablishment and disendowment of that Church. The rev. gentleman spoke at great length in favour of the views thus expressed, quoting the written statements of Irish clergymen and authors in support of his arguments. He was so much interrupted and opposed that the chairman appealed to the gentlemen present to restrain their expressions until a proper moment, on the ground that there were many ladies in the room who would derive an erroneous idea of political meetings if the present course were followed. The interruptions were nevertheless continued, not only through the speech of the mover and the brief remarks of the seconder, Mr. S. H. De Zoete, but were attempted when Sir John Gray rose to support the resolution. The hon. member, however, by judicious and sometimes pungent retorts, with an occasional direct reference to the clergy present, succeeded in overruling the more amenable of his opponents. Touching upon a point which was obvious to those well acquainted with the locality, the hon. member remarked that if the pupils of the Rev. Dr. Morgan—who, it was said, had been "turned in" to the building—would conduct themselves more properly, they would reflect greater credit on their principal. He asked if the English people would think themselves treated with justice if the small minority of Roman Catholics in this country were to be supported by the Government in opposition to the feelings of the nation. Had it not been recognised by the Commons of England and the Queen of England that Church property in Ireland is the property of the State, given at one time to the professors of one religion, at another to the professors of another, doing damage, as he thought, to every kind of religion? (Cheers.) He should have thought the preachers of true religion would rather rely on the doctrine of Christ crucified. (Cheers.) He knew they did, and he should think the public would have greater faith in them if they disunited themselves from a rotten system—(cheers and opposition)—a system which by force, not by argument—(interruption)—which by the power of the law, not by the power of the Gospel on the heart—which by the force of the sword, and not by the language of the spirit, sought to effect by evil means what they did not approve of, and such as all men must condemn, the forcible conversion of the Irish Catholic people. (Cheers.) The hon. member continued at great length, and against much interruption, to speak in favour of the resolution. The Rev. Mr. Fenn, rising to move an amendment, was vociferously cheered by his supporters and was listened to by his opponents with a degree of respectful attention which told strongly to the disadvantage of the boisterous manifestations previously made. He moved—

That this meeting, acknowledging the duty of all Protestants to use any legitimate influence for the preservation and extension of the Protestant faith in Ireland, deems it unjust and inexpedient to weaken in any way the position of the Established Church in Ireland.

Mr. Carpenter seconded the amendment. On being put the supporters of the amendment rose in a body, and by the show of hands, waving of hats and handkerchiefs, attempted to make a greater display than the opponents. The Chairman, however, declared the amendment to be decidedly negatived. In like manner, though with less vehemence on the part of the adherents of the Irish Church, the resolution was tested, but was declared to be carried. W. Angerstein, Esq., then, amid the same kind of opposition, proposed:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the *Regium Donum* and the Maynooth Grant should be discontinued, and that the Government proposal for a Roman Catholic University, or any scheme for the general endowment of all creeds in Ireland, is impolitic, unjust, and should be strenuously resisted.

This resolution was seconded by the Rev. Joseph Beazley, and supported by Sir Chas. Fox. He was followed by the Rev. J. C. Gill, an English Episcopal minister, who said that he took that course as a Protestant, a Churchman, and a clergyman:—

He was subject, as an Oxford man and a clergyman, to all those associations and influences which had a tendency to bias the judgment on this question; but he had tried to put aside all prejudice and prepossession, and to judge the Irish Establishment on its own merits. He could quite understand that his clerical brethren honestly supported what he felt to be an unjust institution. It requires some pains and care often to perceive that what was really unjust was so when our prepossessions were strong in its favour. He had been compelled to the conclusion that the Irish Church Establishment could not stand the test of the golden rule. It was not very easy always, as Bishop Butler had said, to make a fair application of that rule. Another excellent way to discover the justice of any course of conduct was to ask how it was regarded by those who were perfectly impartial and disinterested in the matter, "to see ourselves as others see us." Now if the Irish Establishment were tried by this rule it would be condemned, for foreigners were unanimous in regarding it as an anomaly. And the injustice was not in the disestablishment, for no individual would be able to complain of being wronged. All vested interests and proprietary rights would be scrupulously protected and preserved. It could not be said that the Irish Establishment was necessary for the maintenance of the Protestant religion. The Bishop of Ripon, a strong Protestant, had admitted that this was by no means the case. Neither was it necessary for the Church of England. He (the rev. gentleman) was a devoted son and minister of that Church, which was, as Mr. Gladstone had said, a good Establishment, whereas the Irish was a bad Establishment. That Church was a benefit and blessing to the country, and he was convinced that they were not her true friends who would tie that Church in an indissoluble union with the Irish establishment, so that they must stand and fall together.

The third resolution, moved by Mr. Henry Ellington, and seconded by Mr. Barnett, adopted a petition to Parliament in favour of impartial disestablishment and disendowment.

THE SCOTCH ESTABLISHED ASSEMBLY AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—In the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, on Tuesday week, a long discussion was held on the subject of the Irish Church. The question came up on the presentation of the following overture, signed by thirty-nine members of the House:—"It is humbly overtured that the venerable the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland petition Parliament against disestablishing the Irish branch of the United Church of England and Ireland, as injuriously affecting the honour and security of the Crown, subversive of the faith of treaties, a great discouragement of the Protestant religion, and striking at the root of the sacred principle by which Christian States have hitherto felt themselves bound to encourage and support the truth." Mr. Campbell Swinton, of Kilmarnock (elder), moved that the Assembly petition both Houses of Parliament against the disestablishment of the Irish branch of the Church of England; and in supporting the motion he said he believed that the removal of the evils which had for many years existed in Ireland would not be effected by taking away from that country the blessings of the Protestant faith and the Protestant Establishment. The Rev. Dr. Maitland, of Kells, seconded the motion. Principal Tulloch moved as an amendment,—

That the General Assembly, while acknowledging that there are many evils connected with the Irish branch of the United Church of England and Ireland urgently demanding reform, and desiring that all changes which upon a fair examination, shall be found necessary shall be carried out, yet strongly deprecates the measures now contemplated as imperilling the principle of an Established Church, while affording no security that they will promote the peace or help the social amelioration of Ireland.

He said he felt strongly that it was impossible to defend the Irish Church as an existing institution, and that no man taking an enlightened view of public affairs could go in for the continuance of that institution as it now existed. The Rev. Mr. Lees, of Paisley, seconded the amendment. The Rev. R. H. Stevenson, of Edinburgh, believed that the disestablishment of the Irish Church would not cure the evils of Ireland. Colonel Dundas, of Carronhall (elder), moved that the Assembly pass to the next business on the roll, which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Stewart, St. Mark's, Glasgow. The Rev. Dr. Bisset, Bourtie, supported Mr. Swinton's motion. The Rev. J. E. Cumming, of Edinburgh, proposed the following motion with the view of uniting all parties in the Assembly:—

The General Assembly, while giving no opinion as to any modifications which may be necessary in the Church established in Ireland, resolve to petition both Houses of Parliament against the proposal to disestablish it.

Mr. D. Milne Home, of Wedderburn (elder), seconded Mr. Cumming's motion. The Rev. Dr. Pirie, of Aberdeen, said he could not agree with Mr. Swinton, because he did not understand how far his motion would carry them. The Earl of Selkirk preferred the course proposed by Colonel Dundas to that of Principal Tulloch. On a division between the motion of Mr. Cumming and Colonel Dundas, Mr. Cumming's was carried by 251 to 31. The Assembly then divided on the motions of Mr. Cumming and Principal Tulloch, when Mr. Cumming's was carried by 211 to 81.—In the General Assembly of the Free Church on Tuesday week several motions on the Irish Church were withdrawn, on the ground that there would not be time to do justice to the subject.

LORD ABINGDON ON THE IRISH CHURCH.—A vigorous reply has been given by the Earl of Abingdon to a request made to his lordship to sign an address presented by the "nobility and gentry of

the county of Oxford" to the Queen, on the subject of the Irish Church. The memorial expresses alarm at what are termed the "unconstitutional measures now pending in the Lower House of Parliament"; regards the proposed legislation as involving an aggression upon the Queen's supremacy in matters ecclesiastical and civil; as a violation of the fifth article of the Act of Union; as a blow at the root of all establishments; and as subversive of the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement. The petitioners, therefore, call upon her Majesty to "withstand this aggressiveness"; adding:—

We deliberately apprehend that if a check be not imposed upon the present attempts at violent changes in the Constitution (which no consideration of public interests or convenience has restrained), they will gradually result in subverting the fundamental institutions of the country, to the danger of the Crown itself, and of impairing the civil and religious interests and privileges of your Majesty's subjects of all classes.

The objections of the Earl of Abingdon to this address are based upon a variety of grounds. In the first place, his lordship objects to it because it is limited to "the nobility and gentry," to the exclusion of the other freeholders of the country; in the second, he thinks it so wrong, and so much at variance with the principles of the constitution, that he not only declines to sign it, but publicly protests against it. He contends that the address implies that those who differ from the petitioner on this question are animated neither by loyalty to the throne nor attachment to the institutions of the country, "but that a monopoly of those virtues is enjoyed by those who are active partisans of the Conservative party in the country, which is untrue in fact, and offensive in the imputation it conveys." The opinions enunciated by the petitioners as to the effect of the changes proposed have been repeatedly urged before against most of the legislative improvements of the last forty years, and have invariably proved to be groundless. To propose, as they do, to drag the Queen's name, influence, and authority into the political controversies of the day, exhibits, to his lordship's mind, an utter ignorance of the constitution of the country, and tends either to endanger that main security for public liberty, which consists in the responsibility of Ministers, or to place the Crown itself in a false and unconstitutional, and therefore a dangerous, position. Lord Abingdon adds that the petitioners appear totally blind to the paramount necessity of pacifying Ireland by a great act of national justice, and so preserving the empire from constant difficulties and dangers.

SHEFFIELD.—A meeting in defence of the Irish Church was held on Thursday evening, in the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. There was a considerable array of the local clergy on the platform, but the only local layman who appeared with them was Mr. J. G. A. Creswick, the chairman. The moving, seconding, and supporting of the first and second resolutions were left to clergymen and gentlemen from a distance, aided only by the Rev. Brewin Grant. He described himself as a Dissenter and Liberationist, but of such acuteness that he had seen through the dark designs of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright, and this had led him to go himself, representing we know not how many Dissenters, to help in the defence of the Establishment against Popery, Ritualism, and the like. Mr. Grant particularly assured the meeting that he was not seeking ordination by a bishop, and went into a long and rambling discourse about his letters and lectures, about newspapers, the Libel Bill, the admirable Mr. Murphy, Mr. Hubbard and the discussion, no Popery and pro-Popery, the Congregational Union, its meetings at Manchester, London, and Leeds; about the Year Book, about Dissenting organs, and fifty other things apart from the object of the meeting, but about himself most of all. As to the speeches of the rest of the gentlemen, they were in the highest no-Popery strain, earnestly conjuring all manner of people to be warned against the conspiracies of the Romanist, to rush to the help and defence of the afflicted Irish Church, and to return its friends at the next election. Most touching appeals were made to a band of Liberationists supposed to be present to open their eyes and join in the holy war to defend the Irish Establishment. The resolutions were carried all but *nem. con.* An address was voted to the Queen.—*Sheffield Independent.*

AN IRISH CHURCH DEFENDER.—The well-known lecturer of the Church Institution—the Rev. Dr. Massingham, of Warrington—appeared at Ipswich last Tuesday evening, to speak in favour of the Irish Establishment. The Mayor occupied the chair, and several clergy of the neighbourhood were upon the platform. After speaking for a short time, the rev. lecturer began to dispute certain assertions which had been made by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Mason Jones, Mr. Skeats, and others, respecting the revenues and population of some Irish benefices. With respect to Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Skeats, he asserted that the benefices, in some cases, were not in existence. Getting rather violent in his language at this point, the meeting showed great signs of impatience, and gave three cheers for Mr. Gladstone. The uproar now became so serious, the lecturer persisting in his personal attacks, that he was compelled to sit down. We transfer the remainder of the extraordinary proceedings which subsequently took place from the *Suffolk Chronicle*:—

Here occurred the most astonishing episode of the evening. The lecturer had conducted himself more like an Old Bailey blusterer, but it was reserved for this juncture to occasion the greatest surprise and disgust amongst the audience. Hearing the cheers for Mr.

Mason Jones, the rev. gentleman gave vent in great anger to the following words, which he shouted emphatically:—"You may give three cheers for the devil if you like." There was a pause for a moment; the Mayor openly expressed his disapprobation, and conferred with the clergy behind him. The Rev. Mr. Lookwood, the Rev. Mr. Cowell, and other gentlemen left the hall with those who accompanied them, and the lecturer was hooted with a storm of hootings and groans, which his party did not seem inclined to discourage. Dr. Massingham then proceeded to consider the penal laws, and added that they began in 1367, they were passed in the Statute of Kilkenny by Romish authorities, and they had been all removed. The assertion that the Irish Church was a burden to the Irish was all nonsense. (Groans.) If left to themselves seven out of ten of the Irish people would vote for the Protestant clergy being retained. This being objected to, the lecturer "chafed" the audience, and said that those who differed from him and would not wait until the close of his address ought to be turned out. Several of the lecturer's party left the platform, one of them saying as he left that he "had had enough of him." The lecturer, after sitting down twice more, went on to contend that it could not be proved that a single 100l. had been paid by the State from the taxes to pay any parochial clergyman in England or Ireland. (Cries of "You work for nothing, don't you?") The lecturer explained that he held an endowed living, but was greeted with, "You told us to cheer the devil," and further groans, under which he again sat down. Three more cheers were given for Mr. Mason Jones and Mr. Gladstone, when the lecturer sprang up and said, "I only wish Mr. Disraeli would appeal now to the country, and we would send him back to power next week, and would reject Mr. Gladstone by a large majority." Finding that he had so disgusted his audience as to render himself intolerably obnoxious, he came angrily to a termination of his address. He declared that he would rather see the English Church disestablished than the Irish Church; and pleaded quaintly, amid well-merited derision, in support of the Irish Church that if it were abolished the children of the country would have none but the Popish priests left to baptise them. Finally he accused Mr. Gladstone of having introduced his resolutions solely in order to obtain possession of power, or, as he characteristically termed it, as a "political move," and sat down amid a storm of hisses, and vehement cheers for Mr. Gladstone. The Mayor, on rising, was greeted with cheers. He said that the night was too far advanced (10.30 o'clock) for him to invite discussion, as he had been asked to do. He would explain that in taking the chair he had done so impartially, to listen to what might be said, and if he had been asked to come and hear what Mr. Mason Jones or any one else said he should have consented, and should have sat there and held his own opinions, as he did then hold them, upon that question. He was bound to say, on behalf of his townsmen, that he thought the rev. lecturer had been in the habit of dealing rather with unruly northern populations than with such quiet persons as those of this town. However, what the lecturer had said had come from his heart, and whether they agreed with him or not, he would ask them to join him in thanking him.

Three tremendous groans were then given for the rev. lecturer, and three cheers more for Mr. Gladstone, and three for the mayor terminated the proceedings.

COLCHESTER.—Further meetings of the upholders and opponents of the Irish State Church were held in this town on Monday evening week. The Conservatives held their meeting in the theatre, admission being by ticket. After a long address by Mr. T. Charley, who was the principal speaker, a resolution against disestablishment was moved by Dr. Bree, and seconded by the Rev. J. Bingley, and carried. A petition against Mr. Gladstone's bill was adopted. Colonel Learmonth, the Conservative candidate, also spoke. The Liberals of Colchester met at the Public Hall. The gathering was called at the instance of the Working Men's Liberal Association, very much as a protest against the exclusion of all but partisans from the theatre. The Rev. N. T. Langridge addressed the meeting, and was much cheered. Messrs. John Stack Barnes, J. Wick, jun., and several working men, spoke in favour of disestablishing the Irish Church. Resolutions to that effect were carried, and hearty cheers given for "Gladstone" and "Bright."

PORTSMOUTH.—A large meeting was held at Portsmouth on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. M. Williams in the chair. Resolutions in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church were carried amidst applause.

THE BAPTISTS OF OXFORDSHIRE.—At the annual meeting of the Oxfordshire Association of Baptist Churches, held at Shipston-on-Stour on Monday and Tuesday, May 25 and 26, 1868, it was moved by the Rev. C. J. Middleditch, of Blockley, seconded by the Rev. H. Gillmore, of Faringdon, and resolved unanimously:—

That the ministers and messengers now assembled contemplate with great concern the present position of political and ecclesiastical parties, believing as they do that a severe and protracted struggle is impending between the advocates and opponents of social and religious freedom; that, politically, that struggle will be a struggle for the rights and liberties of all men as opposed to the old despotic rule of the exclusion of the many and Government by the few; and that ecclesiastically, it will be a struggle for the dominance of a sect against the equality of all.

That strenuous efforts have been and will continue to be made, to create and foster the delusion that political distinctions have been brought to an end, and that Toryism is no longer unfriendly to the rights of the people, or to the freedom of religion.

That the resistance which is now being made to the disestablishment of the State Church in Ireland is falsely represented as being resistance to Popery, notwithstanding that the parties by whom it is chiefly carried on are zealous defenders of the national support of Maynooth College, for the training of Popish priests, and zealous advocates for the establishment, at the public cost, of a Popish university for the education of Roman Catholic laymen.

That, therefore, the ministers and messengers of this association do hereby earnestly implore the members of the churches which they represent, not to be beguiled by a party that has always been hostile to the great cause of civil and

religious liberty; but, on the other hand, boldly and consistently to adopt every means for the maintenance and extension of the rights of all citizens, and the perfect equality of all acts, assured that these principles are essential to the well-being of the State, and conducive to the spiritual prosperity of the Church."

At the same meeting the following petition was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be signed by the chairman, and forwarded for presentation to the House of Commons:—

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,

The humble petition of the ministers and messengers of the Oxfordshire Association of Baptist Churches assembled at Shipston-on-Stour, on the 25th and 26th of May, 1868,

Sheweth—

That your petitioners represent numerous congregations of Protestant Dissenters in the counties of Oxon, Gloucester, Worcester, Berks, and Northampton.

That in the judgment of your petitioners the State-established Church in Ireland is a great wrong to society, a scandal to Protestantism, and a serious hindrance to true religion.

That these evils can be effectually removed only by the entire disestablishment and disendowment of the said Church, and not by any State aid afforded to other religious bodies.

That your petitioners have observed with the greatest satisfaction that your Honourable House has sanctioned these principles by recent and repeated votes of your Honourable House.

Your petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to adopt measures for the disestablishment and disendowment of the State Church in Ireland, and for the disendowment of all other religious bodies now receiving aid from the public funds.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the ministers and messengers assembled as aforesaid,

GEORGE MCMICHAEL, B.A., Moderator.

HORSTON, NORFOLK.—In this village the rector (Rev. J. D. Ballance) recently delivered a lecture in defence of the Irish Church, in the National School-room. Several gentlemen from Norwich were present, and asked permission to address the audience in opposition to the rector. The chairman, however, would not allow them to make a speech, but said they might ask what questions they pleased. A number of queries were then put to Mr. Ballance, many of which he declined to answer, and to others he gave very unsatisfactory replies. On a subsequent day a meeting of the friends of abolition was held on a lawn kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Blyth. Mr. Ballance and Gerard Day, Esq. (the chairman at the above-named meeting) were invited to take part in the discussion. These gentlemen, however, did not attend, but there were not less than 500 persons present, many of whom came from St. Faith's, Drayton, Spixworth, and other villages. Various addresses were delivered, and a resolution in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church carried without a dissentient. One of the speakers, Mr. Chamberlain, said he travelled the length and breadth of the land, and he was quite sure that the majority of the members of the Wesleyan body were for the disestablishment of the Irish Church—(Hear, hear)—and not only the Irish Church, but the English Church also. (Applause.) Three cheers were given for the Queen, and three for Mr. Gladstone.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—A lecture on the Irish Church was delivered in Meyrick-street Independent Chapel, Pembroke Dock, on Thursday evening last, by the Rev. Charles Goward, the minister of the place. The chair was taken by William Trewent, Esq., ex-mayor of the borough of Pembroke. The lecture, which occupied about two hours, was most instructive, and was warmly applauded during its delivery. At the close, a petition to the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Gladstone's measure was cordially adopted.

THE DEFENDERS OF THE IRISH CHURCH.—The clergy of the Archdeaconry of Colchester met on Thursday, to protest against the disestablishment of the Irish Church. At St. Mary's, Oxford, on Sunday evening, the Rev. J. W. Burgon took advantage of the position given him by his "holy calling," and preached loudly against the movement for the disestablishment of the Irish Church, &c. At a special meeting of the National Club a resolution has been passed protesting against the disestablishment of the Irish Church, offering to combine with the members of other societies or clubs in London, "in order to take such practical measures as may appear most likely to protect the Protestant cause in the present emergency," and adopting an address to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland, "stating the grounds on which their votes at the approaching election should be given in favour of such candidates only as will pledge themselves to support the United Church of England and Ireland, and the maintenance of the Protestant constitution in Church and State."

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIANS ON THE CHURCH QUESTION.—The General Assembly of Irish Presbyterian Churches has elected the Rev. Charles L. Morrell, of Dungannon, to be moderator by a majority of twenty-one. He spoke very emphatically in favour of a national system of education, and expressed strong and matured feelings against church disendowment.

DR. MASSINGHAM AND MR. GLADSTONE.—The Church Institution, which has undertaken the difficult task of justifying the Irish Establishment to English common fairness and common sense, has an energetic agent in the person of the Rev. Dr. Massingham, incumbent of St. Paul's, Warrington. We gave on Saturday some specimens of this gentleman's peculiar style of oratory, and described its extraordinary effects on the nerves of the people of Ipswich, unaccustomed to the strong excitement in which the Doctor finds his congenial element. He

has since paid a visit to Blackburn, where there is a Church Institute, before the members of which he lectured on the proposed disestablishment. In the course of his remarks he compared Mr. Gladstone to Miles Weatherhill, the Todmorden murderer. "There was, however, this difference—that they could hang the man for murder, but they could not hang the man who sought to disestablish and plunder the Church, and he held that hanging is too good for the man who proposed to do that." If the agitation in favour of the Irish Church produces such oratory as this in its infancy, what may we not expect as it makes progress? Should the Church Institute propose to continue the work on which it has entered, it would do well to employ as lecturers laymen accustomed to meet their fellow-men on equal terms, and acknowledge some responsibility for their public utterances.—*Daily News*.

FOREIGN OPINION ON THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION.—The new number of the *Correspondant* contains the first part of an article by M. de Montalembert, entitled "L'Irlande et l'Autriche," treating of the question of the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland. The night of the 3rd of April last, when Mr. Gladstone's resolutions were taken into consideration, deserves, he says, to be henceforth counted among the remarkable dates of history. It recalls the memory of that other night, more memorable still, now eighty years ago, when a mortal blow was given to the slave-trade, which he declares to be hardly less iniquitous than the Establishment in Ireland.

THE CHANCES OF A CHURCH-AND-QUEEN CRY.

(From the *Spectator*.)

Every speech that Mr. Disraeli makes renders it more evident how thoroughly he intends to work his two cries at the approaching general election—"Our Protestant Queen" and "Our Church Establishment." In the speech of yesterday week he dwelt emphatically on both heads. He had been charged, he said, with trying to raise the "No Popery" cry. That was a mistake; but he had heard with surprise that for the first time there had been a cry raised in the country of "No Protestantism." Mr. Disraeli did not reveal where this cry had been raised, remarking rather unnecessarily that it had not been raised in the House of Commons, or he should have taken note of it before. But like the really deliberate, though in manner excited, charge which Mr. Gladstone, in the debate on the resolutions, erroneously ascribed to the suggestions of "a heated imagination," namely, that there existed an open confederation between the Romanists and the Ritualists, intended to destroy the Church, and injuriously "touch even the tenure of the throne," Mr. Disraeli's attempt to identify the attack on the Irish Establishment with the cry of "No Protestantism" was meant as a cue for the country, and not for the House. He took care, too, yesterday week to drag in the throne, as usual, to the thick of the battle. Mr. Gladstone's policy, he said, would probably "dim the splendour of the British throne." In "Coningsby" Mr. Disraeli made Mr. Taper remark that "a good Church cry before a registration would do"; and Mr. Tadpole rejoins, "I am all for a religious cry; it means nothing, and, if we are successful, does not interfere with business when we are in"; and so they agree on a cry that shall "go strong on the Church," and yet, if possible, hold out prospects "to the Wesleyans," whom Mr. Taper and Mr. Tadpole think they have "too long confounded with the mass of the Dissenters." Mr. Disraeli is following just the same tactics now. He is trying his best to wriggle out of the concessions to the Catholics proposed by Lord Mayo at the beginning of the session, and to undermine confidence in Mr. Gladstone by representing him as leading the party of "No Protestantism," and by painting him as plotting deep to "dim the splendour of the British throne."

What is the probable chance of success for this strategy? There is no doubt but that Mr. Disraeli has succeeded in uniting the clergy almost *en masse* on his side. In one division of a considerable county, out of fifty-one clergymen who voted for the Liberal party at the last election, it is calculated that not above six or seven can be counted upon for the next. The Bishop of London, head of the Liberal clergy, is one of the great leaders of obstruction. Not a man of any great note, except, we believe, Dr. Temple, Professor Maurice, Mr. Llewellyn Davies, and a few of the most distinguished London clergy, has remained true to Mr. Gladstone. Virtually we do not doubt that the clergy are consolidated in opposition to the friends of "ecclesiastical equality" in Ireland. Whatever fascination the abstract idea of the Queen's supremacy may have will also swell the numbers of the same party; we say "the abstract idea," because the Queen's supremacy in Ireland has never been and will never be recognised by the Irish Catholics, and is never likely to be less recognised than it is now by the Irish Protestants, established or disestablished. Still, all the evangelical zeal of the clergy against the withdrawal of the Protestant garrison in Ireland, and much of that political Liberalism among the clergy which dreads the democratic tyranny of voluntarism, will be united on the Tory side in this great contest. Mr. Disraeli is not unlikely for a time to take Lord Palmerston's place, both as the *Record's* "man of God," and, at the same time, as the Conservative statesman who defends the property of the Establishment against every shrill cry of voluntarism or Radical reform.

But, admitting to the full Mr. Disraeli's probable success with the clergy, how much are we to consider that this will do for him in the next registration of voters? Will the clergy carry with them any respect-

able proportion of the Liberal laity? Will the cry of "Our Protestant Queen and our Church Establishment" alarm the Liberal country doctor, or the Liberal country solicitor, or the Liberal squire into the ranks of the enemy? That the clergyman, especially where he is an able and popular man, will have his following, and will carry with him a churchwarden or two as a matter of course, is to be assumed. But, as a rule, we regret to think—though for the prospects of this contest it may be a matter of good omen—that the jealousy of the clergyman felt by the secular notabilities of most country parishes is probably greater than his influence. If he carries a few with him, there will be not a few who, supported by their party, will seize willingly enough the opportunity to show their independence of him. In fact, the extraordinary unanimity and coherence of the Liberal party on Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church policy sufficiently shows that the clergy have exerted no power as yet to turn the Liberal squires or the Liberal laymen against him. In nearly every country parish there is a brisk demand for opportunities of showing independence of the clergy without showing disrespect for religion, and we imagine that this will be thought a very eligible opportunity of the desired kind in most English parishes. The admission that the Irish Protestant Establishment is a disgraceful anomaly has been so long made freely on all hands, even by those who—now that the moment has come for choosing their side—are ranging themselves as its defenders, that as a rule the English laity, of the middle class, at least, are by no means likely to allow themselves to be persuaded that the battle of the English Establishment should be fought on Irish soil. There is a perceptible disposition to snub this clerical view as a professional extravagance savouring of class interest and theoretical doctrine rather than practical sense. We do not believe that the clergy will succeed in breaking up to any tangible extent the present organisation of the Liberal party in the counties.

But what will the new 124 county electors contribute to the contest? There can be no doubt that in the metropolitan counties, and, indeed, in all which contain large suburbs a few miles removed from great cities, the new county electors will swell the strength of the Liberal vote. We have no profound respect for the Liberalism of those caravans of commercial immigrants who invade the neighbouring city every morning, taking counsel of their newspapers in the train, and return every night to their dinners and cigars in the country. For the most part, they are dilettanti Liberals, who fret under Mr. Gladstone's earnestness, sympathise with Mr. Jefferson Davis or Mr. Johnson as the last representative of American reaction, and seldom feel a ray of enthusiasm except when reading the compositions of Mr. Hamilton Hume on behalf of Mr. Eyre. But hollow as this commercial Liberalism too often is, it has at least no vestige of sympathy with the No Popery cry. It despises the fears of Exeter Hall as much as it despises the philanthropy of the Jamaica Committee. It considers that the common sense of the thing is to get rid of the Irish Establishment, and laughs at Mr. Disraeli's claptrap about dimming "the splendour of the British throne." The worldly and secular feeling which is one of the poorest and worst elements of modern Liberalism may yet contribute to the success of a better faith than its own in all those counties in which considerable suburban districts are now by the 124 voting clause to be embodied. The indifferent, care-nothing, liberty-depreciating Liberals who are now so numerous, are pretty certain not to be fascinated by Mr. Disraeli's cry of "Our Protestant Queen and our Church Establishment!" The only doubt is whether they will take the trouble to vote at all.

But the great mass of new county voters will probably be small farmers, village tradesmen, and shopkeepers. As for the small farmers, even on Liberal estates they will very often be high Tories, and in some Liberal counties—as, for example, Derbyshire—they will not improbably turn the balance in the direction of Conservatism. But the village tradesmen and shopkeepers will be a more numerous element still. And the effect on them of Mr. Disraeli's cry will depend almost invariably on their religious connections. The small Church shopkeepers in hotly divided districts will often hold aloof, and in districts with a great preponderating party, either Liberal or Conservative will probably vote with that party. But the immense number of Dissenting shopkeepers who will be enfranchised for the county by the new act will probably be nearly unanimous and very strongly united for Mr. Gladstone's policy. It is true that in some places there may be doubts about the Wesleyans. Mr. Disraeli, like Mr. Tadpole, is quite alive to the chance of dividing the Wesleyans. When he can, like the former, put up a "baronet for a county member very much looked up to by the Wesleyans," he will not, we may be sure, miss his chance. The Wesleyans have never quite given up the notion of rejoining the Establishment, and are more than half disposed at times to fight its battles on the chance of a compromise. But then those of the Wesleyans who are the least politically hostile to the Establishment—the followers of Wesley rather than Whitfield—are also those who are by no means the most furious against the Catholics. They are not disposed to ignore the practical injustice of establishing on national revenues a Church of the smallest minority. And as far as we can learn—in those Wesleyan districts already investigated at least—the Wesleyans appear to be clear and firm for Mr. Gladstone, and this on no fanatic grounds. The Independents and Baptists are united as one man. The more heretical sects are almost equally unanimous, being moved partly by disgust for Mr. Disraeli's antecedents, and partly by a hearty de-

sire for this tardy justice to the Irish Catholics. On the whole, we believe the great Dissenting bodies, whether in the counties or the boroughs, will act for Mr. Gladstone with as much unanimity as they showed in resisting Sir James Graham's Factory Education Bill in 1843.

And what of the new borough franchise? In the petty boroughs we fear that now, as before, wealth, and not principle, will win; only that it will take still more wealth and still less principle to win. So far, no great result will arise either way from Mr. Disraeli's war cry. Unscrupulous wealth will be poured out both for our "Our Protestant Queen and our Church Establishment," and for "Justice to Ireland." But in the greater boroughs there cannot be a doubt that household suffrage will add immensely to the force of an earnest but (as yet) quite secular Liberalism, and that this force will be exerted on behalf of "Justice to Ireland"—which means, of course, disestablishment. The cry of "Our Protestant Queen!" will do as much as anything could to diminish a justly popular sovereign's popularity in the great centres of manufacturing industry. There is an air of cant about the cry, especially as raised by Mr. Disraeli, which our working classes will be the first to feel and appreciate. It is true indeed that in a few places where the Irish settlements are large, and probably also unpopular, there may be a political race conflict of some magnitude. But, those exceptional cases apart, there cannot be a doubt that in the great boroughs where opinion and not wealth carries the day, the new voters will be in general of the warmest and most earnest secularist type of Liberalism, with an intense personal enthusiasm for Mr. Gladstone. On the whole, then, we cannot help believing that Mr. Disraeli is destined to find his new Taper and Tadpole cry a failure. In Scotland and Ireland at least it has not a shadow of a hope of success. In England, the not very creditable unanimity of the clergy will probably be balanced by other elements of Mr. Disraeli's own creating, so that we sincerely hope to see him "hoist with his own petard."

THE IRISH CHURCH AND THE "NO POPERY" CRY.

On Thursday evening, the 21st May, a lecture was delivered by the Rev. John Stook, LL.D., in his chapel, Morice-square, Devonport, to a large audience, the subject chosen being, "The disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church and the No Popery Cry." The reverend gentleman commenced by saying that he would simply set before them one view of the question. His object in delivering the lecture was to endeavour to set aside the false issue some were seeking to raise with regard to the Irish question, which was so largely occupying public attention at the present time. It had been said that the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Episcopal Church in Ireland would be a heavy blow and a great discouragement to Protestantism in that country, but he wanted to show them that that fear was entirely visionary, and that there was every reason to expect that the adoption of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions would issue in a glorious and blessed revival of Protestantism in Ireland. (Applause.) He expressed surprise at the very idea that the disestablishment of the Church would produce such an effect as was predicted. It was not intended to touch a single rite, a single rubric, or a single church service; it was not intended to touch the Church itself. The proposed arrangement was simply respecting the "loaves and fishes," and he had yet to learn that they constituted the moral power of any Church under the sun. (Applause.) He did not see why people should indulge in any fear as to the interests of Protestantism in view of the adoption of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions. He would ask them to look at the early history of the Church of Christ, when it was neither established nor endowed by the State, but was bitterly persecuted. It was during the first three centuries that it achieved its noblest triumphs; and surely what was then done in the face of persecution could be done again. He alluded to the early history of Protestantism, how its glorious principles won their way into men's hearts in the face of persecution, when Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, and Hooper had to seal their faith with their blood, and asked whether the men of this age had lost their faith in the spiritual power of a genuine Protestantism? Besides, he would ask them to look at what the Irish Church Establishment had done for Ireland. That they were no nearer converting Ireland than when they began to try was a certainty. We could not be worse off than we are at the present time; anything would be better than the existing state of affairs; we could lose nothing in Ireland, for the simple reason that we had gained nothing; and surely the time had now come when a change should be demanded. For 300 years we had been trying to convert Ireland to the Protestant faith by the rich endowments of the Established Church, and yet at the end of three hundred years the church occupied not one whit better a position than she did at the commencement. He (the rev. gentleman) maintained that there would be a material gain by the adoption of the course which Mr. Gladstone proposed. Of the Irish clergy he believed that they were the very best samples of their class—(Hear, hear)—but notwithstanding this the Irish Church had been a failure, and it had been something more than a failure—it had been a perfect hindrance to the conversion of Irishmen to Protestantism. They felt it to be a wrong, a badge of conquest, and an injustice, and therefore they are prejudiced against

taking the truth to their hearts. Speaking of the power of Roman Catholicism in Ireland and in other countries, the rev. gentleman said that the Irish were not specially difficult to convert to the Protestant faith, for it was a noteworthy fact that away from Ireland—in America, for instance—they were susceptible of Protestant influences. The latter country had absorbed in thirty years 10,000,000 from various portions of the earth (mostly from Ireland, however), who were Roman Catholics, but now there were only 4,000,000 of Roman Catholics in the United States. In America they had no Established Church taxing them and exasperating them against the truth as held and taught by Protestants, and this fact made all the difference. (Cheers.) Then, again, as long as the Irish Establishment stood the endowment of Maynooth would remain, and other endowments of the Church of Rome would follow, and Popery would be still further encouraged by their national legislation. This was the avowed policy of the present Government, as expounded by Lord Mayo. (Hear.) The rev. lecturer continued to say that it was proposed to commence the further endowment of the Romish Church by the creation of a sectarian Roman Catholic University in Ireland, and that would only be the beginning of a systematic course of endowments for Popery. (Applause.) He denounced it as wicked for the Tory party to raise the cry of "No Popery" for mere election purposes, and showed, by a rapid survey of the history of the question, that all the great concessions to Popery had been inaugurated by Tory Ministers; that Wellington and Peel were the statesmen who passed the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829; that it was Sir Robert Peel who took the steps in 1845 which led to the placing of a permanent charge for Maynooth College upon the Consolidated Fund; and that nearly all the great changes made in Church property in Ireland had been sanctioned by Conservative statesmen, such as Lord Derby, Sir Robert Peel, Sir Henry Hardinge, and others. The real alternative before the nation was whether with Mr. Gladstone they would disestablish and disendow Protestantism in Ireland, and so get rid of all Popish endowments existing or contemplated, or with the Right Honourable Mr. Benjamin Thimble Rig—(laughter and hisses)—they would preserve a large portion of the endowments of the Established Protestant Church in Ireland, and with the remainder endow the Roman Catholic priesthood in that country. The No Popery cry, he thought, came with a very bad grace from the gentlemen who raised it; facts proved that the Protestant Episcopal Church was no barrier against Popery, for nearly all the secessions to Rome were from the clergy and members of that Church. They very seldom heard of Dissenters going over to Rome, but when they did they generally went first into the Established Church, as a stepping-stone or sort of half-way house to Rome. He called upon the Church to purge out the Popery that existed in her own midst, and from her own communion. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.") That, however, she was powerless to do, as recent events had clearly proved. At a lecture delivered in Liverpool a few weeks since by the Rev. Dr. Littledale, he likened the martyred Reformers, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, and Hooper, to the miscreants of the great French Revolution, Robespierre, Danton, Marat, and others. Yet Dr. Littledale was a priest of the Anglican Church, and a distinguished member of the English Church Union. (Shame, shame.) Having quoted at some length portions of speeches delivered by Mr. John Bright, Mr. Whalley, and others, and made a reference to the meeting held at St. James's Hall on the 6th of May, as illustrating the hopelessly divided state of the Church, and her utter want of all power of godly discipline, he closed with the following peroration:—"When the Israelites went down to Egypt for bread, they soon found themselves to be in the 'house of bondage'; and so long as the Episcopal Church will go to the State for sustenance she must expect to find herself in fetters. Israel had to purchase freedom by forsaking the flesh-pots of Egypt, and the Church of England can only have liberty on the same terms. (Cheers.) God is raising her up a Moses to lead her forth; but, alas! her bishops and clergy 'refuse him, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge?' But let her follow the guidance of that eminent statesman who seeks to conduct her forth (in Ireland at least) from the house of bondage. She may find the air of the wilderness sharp, but it will prove bracing. And He who opened the windows of heaven and poured down manna, smote the rocks and caused water to gush forth for His chosen tribes, will fulfil for His own Church the promise, 'Bread shall be given thee, and thy water shall be sure.' All fulness dwells in Jesus, and He will never allow any Church that He has planted to lack for loaves and fishes. Let the Episcopal Church learn to trust Him for these, and her wants shall be all supplied." (Loud cheers.) The address, which occupied one hour and three-quarters in delivery, was listened to with the deepest attention throughout. There was frequent applause, but no opposition. We are glad to learn that Mr. Stook has expressed his willingness to deliver this lecture in other places.

THE MURPHY RIOTS.

There has been further rioting on the part of the Murphys and their opponents in several parts of Lancashire. At Oldham a Roman Catholic chapel was attacked and the windows broken, and there were like disturbances at Hollinwood and Failsworth, populous townships on the road to Manchester. On Thursday night

they reached the very outskirts of Manchester itself. About ten o'clock a body of Irishmen, variously estimated at from forty to one hundred and fifty, marching four deep and armed with staves and bludgeons, were seen passing the Miles Platting Railway Station, proceeding by Queen's-road, in the direction of Osborne-street and Oldham-road, to Harpurhey. In passing Osborne-street Independent chapel the mob stopped for a few minutes, and discharged a volley of stones at the windows, by which twenty or thirty squares of glass were broken. A similar "demonstration" took place at St. John's Church, Miles Platting station, of which the windows were considerably damaged. A large stone, described as four inches square, was thrown through the window of St. John's Rectory, the residence of the Rev. W. Richardson, into a sitting room on the ground floor. The crowd having passed towards Harpurhey, it was feared an attack might be made on the parish church, where a sermon or lecture on the Irish Church question had been delivered earlier in the evening, but the mob appear to have hurried on to Barnes Green, to defend, as it is supposed, the Roman Catholic chapel there against possible attack.

On Saturday, the Rochdale Murphys celebrated the opening of a tent which has been put up in that town. The committee had issued a placard, announcing the opening ceremony, and saying, "It is particularly desired that there should be no display of party colours on the occasion, lest there be any pretext for a disturbance." On being called upon by the chairman, Murphy rose, exhibiting considerable displeasure. He said that as he was coming down that evening to the tent, a young Irish urohin cried out to a young woman who wore an orange ribbon round her neck—"Pull that ribbon off." The placard which the committee had issued was a precedent for that insulting remark, and he was disgusted when he saw concession after concession made to Popery. The chairman (Mr. J. P. Dickinson) said that Murphy should not dictate to him what he must do. There was no argument in orange ribbons, and they might provoke the Roman Catholics if exhibited. That was the principle of the committee, and Murphy should not dictate to that committee. Murphy left the meeting alone shortly afterwards, apparently much annoyed. The proceedings passed off without any other disturbance.

The authorities of Belfast have promptly interposed to prevent a man named Flynn, said to be a colleague of the notorious Murphy, from disturbing the peace of the town by delivering a course of lectures on Roman Catholicism. The placards announcing these lectures were couched in the most offensive terms, and there is every probability that had Flynn been allowed to carry out his intention serious riots would have taken place. On being brought before the magistrates, he was required to leave the town forthwith on pain of being arrested. He had no alternative but to submit, and the town is now relieved of his dangerous presence. The action of the magistrates has given satisfaction to all the respectable inhabitants of Belfast and to the Irish press.

The Rev. John Page Hopps, Unitarian minister, of Dukinfield, sends to the Times a description of the addresses delivered by Murphy, which are producing such fearful results in so many of the northern towns. It appears that Murphy began his campaign at the Foresters' Hall, Stalybridge, on the 13th January. He began by producing "a ten-chambered revolver, amid the wildest enthusiasm of the audience," this being without provocation and in a meeting of friends. His opening sentence was, "I'm a queer lad, as you'll find out yet." His next sentence was a threat to smash something or somebody. Then he "offered up prayer," and proceeded with his address, from which the following is an extract:—

The way to get rid of Fenianism is to hang the priests. Every Popish priest is a Fenian head-centre. I am going to Ashton to lecture in a cotton mill, and within 300 or 400 yards of the Catholic chapel, and it will not take us long to drive the Popish lambs to Paddy's land. If the people once break out in Lancashire they will first seize the Catholic priests, then the Sisters of Mercy, and afterwards the lambs, and send them all afloat, neck and crop.

An attempt was afterwards made by some of Mr. Murphy's audience to provoke the Irish population to a breach of the peace; but without success, and then a cry was raised, "To the chapel, to the chapel!" On another occasion his address was interspersed with the following statements:—

"According to the 'History of the Council of Trent,' every priest is bound to have his own concubine." "A Roman Catholic could murder his baby or his wife by paying the priest 26s. 2s. 9d., and confessing his crime to him." "Your wives and daughters are exposed to debauchery in the confessional, are betrayed and kidnapped into convent prisons, and there kept the dupes or slaves of priestly lust." "The priest secretly sets on his bloodhounds to destroy her Majesty's loyal people." "Put down the priests."

And the utterance of these statements, we are told, was accompanied by the frequent display of the "bright ten-chambered revolver," which Mr. Murphy delighted to call his "bull-dog." To add to the effect of this exhibition on one occasion he discharged it out of the window of the lecture-hall into the street. At Ashton, whither he went, as he said, "to pull down the cross," he was at one time seen to be heading the mob. On another occasion he justified the use of his revolver on the ground that "God protects those who defend themselves." This is but a sample of the inflammatory addresses which, whatever may be the intention, certainly have the effect of creating lawless violence.

It is not Sir Colman O'Loughlin's intention to pay-
cover with his proposed motion releasing future

Sovereigns of the realm from the declaration against transubstantiation, the invocation of saints, and other doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

New York has 419 churches of all kinds, with accommodation for 290,000 persons. The average attendance is 150,000. The resident population in the city is about 800,000.

THE CHURCH AND STATE DEFENDERS.—We understand that the projected Church and State Alliance Society is likely to be fused in the Church Institution under the amended name of the Church and State Institution.—*John Bull.*

MR. DISRAELI has directed a letter to be addressed to the Secretary of the London and Westminster Working Men's Conservative Association, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of resolutions approving of the conduct of the Government, and stating that he confidently shares the opinion of the meeting that the policy of the Government has the approval of the people.

THE IRISH CHURCH INQUIRY.—It is stated that the Irish Church Commissioners, notwithstanding their anxiety to bring their inquiry to a close, are apprehensive that they will not be able to present their report before the end of June, or early in July. Of course legislation on the report at so late a period of the session will be out of the question, but it may afford the Government "a cry" with which to go to the country.

CHURCH SYNODS AND POLITICS.—The example set at the Stafford synodical meeting, lately held under the presidency of the Bishop of Lichfield, was followed at a rural dean meeting held at Wellington (Salop) on Friday afternoon. The chairman (the rural dean) said that "a form of petition against the proposal to disestablish the Irish Church had been sent down to him," but he did not say by whom. He added that "he believed 7,000 signatures had already been obtained, and it was hoped as many more would sign."

A RIGOROUS PENANCE.—A local paper tells a strange tale about the monastery at Laleham under the control of Father Ignatius. A man, supposed to be one of the "brothers," has been placed in the garden at the rear of the monastery and tied up with a rope as though he were a dog, with an earthenware saucer placed before him to drink out of. He was there four days and nights, being obliged to lie on the ground. It is added that the wretched individual was doing penance for having killed a swallow.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILL AND THE CONSCIENCE CLAUSE.—This bill has emerged from the select committee of the House of Commons with various amendments made in it. In the clause empowering the governing body of a school to make regulations with respect to various matters, this select committee have added the two following among such matters:—"With respect to giving facilities for the education of boys whose parents or guardians wish to withdraw them from the religious instruction given in the school; and with respect to giving facilities for boys other than boarders to attend at the school and participate in the educational advantages thereof."

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.—It is stated that seventeen Junior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, have presented a memorial to the Senior Board against a suggestion by the Provost, Dr. Lloyd, for a mixed university, instead of the present University of Dublin. Five more Juniors have presented a memorial supporting Mr. Fawcett's plan. It is said in Dublin that Lord Cairns approves Dr. Lloyd's scheme, which proposes the establishment of an Irish mixed university with Trinity College and other colleges affiliated to it. In writing to a local paper, Dr. Lloyd says he puts forward his plan only as the "least objectionable," and he denies that he is influenced by any ulterior design of breaking up the Queen's University, establishing a Presbyterian university, or "appropriating to a Catholic and strictly denominational college in Dublin the funds now expended in maintaining the Cork and Galway Queen's Colleges." A petition presented to the House of Lords praying that the Protestant character of Trinity College, Dublin, may be maintained intact, bears the signature of 4,293 graduates and 3,000 non-graduates of the university.

HOW THE IRISH CHURCH CONTEST IS VIEWED IN ITALY.—The Florence correspondent of one of the daily papers writes:—"The proceedings of the English Parliament in reference to the Anglican Church in Ireland are followed with a degree of interest which it would be incorrect to term profound, but which is considerably greater than that bestowed on the ordinary events of foreign politics. This interest springs from two causes, and is reflected in two distinct forms of discussion. The relations between the Catholic Church and the Italian State are so much influenced by the relations between that Church and all other Governments, that the agitation, whether in England, or France, or Germany, of any new and important ecclesiastical question, is justly considered as having a very strong though indirect bearing on Italian politics. Consequently the proposed change in the relations between the State Church of England and the majority of the Irish people is regarded with various feelings of hope or fear, according as politicians lean to the theory that the abolition of a State Church in Ireland may tend to hasten the overthrow of a Church-State in Italy, or to the opinion that the Papal power may derive additional authority from the severance in Ireland of the State connection. The Liberal organs of the Italian press are unanimous in their approval of, and sympathy with, Mr. Gladstone."

SALE OF LIVINGS.—One of the clerical agents advertises the fact that his private list for May contains the unprecedented number of 100 Church

livings for sale at prices from 250*l.* to 25,000*l.* It looks very much as if the old birds were preparing to leave their nests in case a Reformed Parliament should direct attention to the English as the present Parliament has already done to the Irish Church. A few years ago it might have been easy to reform the abuses of the Protestant Church in Ireland, but they were left to bear fruit until fully ripe, and it has now fallen from the tree. Can nothing be done in England whilst there is yet time and opportunity? This is a question which all true Churchmen should be prepared to answer. It will not bear delay, and it is not eventually to be avoided.—*London Review.*

DR. MANNING ON THE PAPAL MISSION.—At a luncheon, which followed the opening of a new school-church for the use of the Roman Catholics of Bradford, on Friday, Dr. Manning said he believed that the Pontificate of Pius IX. had been signalised, even in the eyes of the world, as being the barrier which had turned back from the civil order of Europe the inundations of revolutions. He believed that the Enyclical and the Syllabus, which were the objects of special scorn, and were like conductors to catch the lightning, were the providential preparation for a general council which Pius IX. was about to declare; and he would make another prophecy, that the general council would mark the epoch of reaction against the anti-Christian revolution in Europe. Those days of narrow restricted laws were gone: when England united itself to Scotland it lost its identity, and became Great Britain; and when Great Britain united with Ireland it attained a higher unity, and the States of the Constitution, which, like the raiment of a child, were fitted for other days, were fitted for these. The reign of Queen Victoria would, he believed, be written in history, with the note attached to it as its glory, that it was the period of the spirit of the religious equality amongst all her subjects. He applied that most emphatically to Ireland, because he felt that they in England had so little to ask for that it would be frivolous and contemptible to ask for it: but in Ireland they had much to ask for, and in the name of justice they demanded it.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA.—The colonies seem to be rapidly drifting towards a uniform system on this subject. There are no endowments for religious purposes corresponding to the "livings" in England; but where aid is given to the Churches by the State, it is in the form of direct money payment from the Treasury. In New South Wales and South Australia the State recognises no religion, and pays for none. All sects, the Church of England included, are left to stand or fall on their own merits, and to support themselves on such subscriptions, pew-rents, or fees, as church attendants may think fit to give. Catholic, Anglican, Jew, and pagan are all equal, and occupy the same position, as far as the State is concerned, that the Dissenters occupy in England—that is, the Government altogether ignores them. In Victoria and Tasmania the Government contributes aid to every Church that likes to claim it in the ratio of the numbers belonging to the several sects. Religious equality is preserved, not by fostering one Church, but by aiding all. The State pays the Catholics to preach purgatory, pardons, &c.; it pays the Anglicans to call them "vain things, fondly invented and repugnant to the word of God" (Article XXII.); it pays the Presbyterians to propagate Calvinism and to denounce hierarchies; the Wesleyans, Methodists, and Baptists to preach what they please, and to hit out at whomsoever they esteem worthy of chastisement; and finally it subsidises the Jews to declare all Christians to be men blindly labouring in superstition, and insanely misreading the Scriptures that they profess to have built upon. Toleration running rampant in this fashion has ever been the target for colonial wit and sarcasm, and bills have more than once been introduced into the Victorian and Tasmanian Parliaments for the abolition of State aid to religion. Unwillingness to deal harshly with old incumbents has mainly contributed to prolong the grant; but as every year reduces these original recipients in number, it may safely be predicted that all the Australian colonies will before long follow the example of South Australia and New South Wales, and cease to contribute in any way towards the support of priests and churches.—*Fraser's Magazine* for May.

Religious and Denominational News.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening a numerously attended conference was held in the rooms of the London Missionary Society, Blomfield-street, with a view to make the above society of efficient service amongst the masses of London. Mr. James Townley presided, and amongst those present were—Rev. J. H. Wilson, Rev. P. J. Turquand, Rev. C. Gilbert, Rev. E. Price, Rev. L. D. Bevan, Rev. J. De Kewer Williams, Rev. I. V. Mummery, Rev. A. Forbes, Rev. S. Kennedy, Rev. S. Parkinson, Rev. H. Cocks, Rev. J. Ross, Rev. J. Pulling, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Stabb, &c. After prayer had been offered by Mr. Bevan, the CHAIRMAN said their object was, first, to go after the million who in London needlessly absented themselves from public worship. He hoped some suggestions would be thrown out which would be of practical value. The Rev. J. H. WILSON stated what had been done since it was determined to revive the Christian Instruction Society. They had first enlarged their committee, making it thoroughly representative of the London churches. They had next sent out deputations to churches, to endeavour to awaken an interest in the proposed work of the society. Mr.

Sinclair, Mr. Townley, and himself had visited several churches, and their statements had resulted in the establishment of auxiliaries. The subject of tracts had engaged their attention, and he was glad to announce that Mr. Drummond, of Stirling, Mr. Bewley, Mr. T. B. Smithies, and the Religious Tract Society had promised a good supply. Mr. Tyler had promised the use of his schoolrooms for the training of evangelists. Mr. SINCLAIR (Hare-court Chapel), in response to the chairman's call, stated that what had deeply impressed his mind when he came to reside in London was the utter ignorance of the poor with regard to the Word of God. They were entirely ignorant of the elementary truths of the Gospel. He had, therefore, come to the conclusion that the best thing to be done was to make them acquainted with the truths of Revelation. Several friends at Hare-court agreed with him in this view, and they had determined to see what could be done. They found that, for one man whom they could get to preach to poor people, they could get ninety-nine who were willing to read the Bible to them, and to talk to them of its truths. Accordingly they started a number of Bible-reading rooms. They had now fifteen of them at work, and in addition they had four evangelists conducting preaching services. It was his conviction that there was a great waste of effort in the churches, and he thought they ought to act in concert, so that there might not be a superabundance of visitors in one district and none at all in another. Mr. RENNIE, a superintendent of the London City Mission, was of opinion that better men were needed for the work of open-air preaching than many of those now engaged in the work. The Rev. E. PRICE thought there was a division springing up between organised and what he might call disorganised churches. There were some evangelists who were doing a great deal of mischief. They were honest men, no doubt, but their efficiency was limited by their incapacity. The greatest nonsense conceivable was sometimes taught by them in the name of the Gospel, and it was little wonder, therefore, that ministers hesitated to identify themselves with them. He would not say one word against evangelistic effort, but he should be glad to see suitable men engaged in it. The Rev. C. GILBERT, Rev. L. D. BEVAN, and other ministers, took part in the discussion, and it was at length resolved that the Christian Instruction Society should be recommended to modify its rules, with a view to churches being affiliated with it on the principle with which they are now connected with the Sunday-school Union.

The Wesleyans of Melbourne, Victoria, have recently opened a new chapel, costing 7,000*l.*

According to the Wiltshire papers, the Earl of Cavan has been preaching to large congregations in the Congregational chapels in Warminster.

SHEFFIELD.—We learn from the local *Independent*, that the Rev. Brewin Grant, B.A., has resigned the pastorate of the Cemetery-road Congregational Church in that town, having resolved to devote his energies to devote his energies to oppose Ritualism, "and in the general defence of the Reformation in England, which is being openly attacked and undermined, and the battle of which has to be fought over again."

THORNTON HEATH, CROYDON.—The Rev. A. Hannay, the pastor of the Congregational Church in this place has, after mature deliberation, and in conformity with the earnest desire of nearly every member of the church, withdrawn his resignation, and resolved to remain. The announcement to this effect, made from the pulpit on Sunday week, gave the liveliest satisfaction to the congregation, by whom Mr. Hannay is much beloved and highly esteemed.

POLPERRO, CORNWALL.—The Congregational chapel in this place was reopened on Sunday last by the Rev. W. Phillips, of Looe. It was closed for nearly twenty years, and all but lost to the denomination. The chapel was in a most dilapidated state, but, possession having been obtained, by the assistance of kind friends it has been repaired, and will be held as a branch of the Congregational church at Looe.

MALTON.—The recognition of the Rev. J. W. Clarke, as pastor of the Congregational Church, Malton, took place May 27th. The following ministers, with others, took part in the proceedings:—The Rev. E. L. Adams, of Scarborough, introductory devotions; the Rev. J. H. Morgan, of Leeds, exposition of principles; the Rev. R. Balgarnie, of Scarborough, questions; the Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A., of Leeds, ordination prayer; the Rev. D. Fraser, LL.D., of Bradford, charge; the Rev. W. Jackson, of Whitby, sermon.

METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.—At the district meeting of the United Methodist Free Churches in Westmoreland and Cumberland, held on May 20th, at the city of Carlisle, the secretary was requested to prepare petitions to the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in favour of "Disestablishment of the Irish Episcopal Church, and the disendowment of all the religious sects in Ireland receiving State aid"; in favour of "National, undenominational, compulsory education"; and also in favour of Mr. Smith's "Sale of Liquors on Sunday Bill"; to be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting.

WELSH PRESBYTERIANS IN LIVERPOOL.—There are at present over 4,000 adult and 1,500 juvenile Welsh Presbyterians who worship every Sunday in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, and for whose accommodation eleven chapels and schools have been provided. For years past these united congregations have been in the habit of holding a monster

meeting in the Amphitheatre on Whit-Monday, but not being able to secure that building yesterday, they were compelled to engage the Philharmonic Hall, the largest room of which was filled to overflowing. It was estimated that nearly 4,000 church-members and elders were present. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. Henry Rees. Mr. Samuel Jones read the annual report, which stated that the number of church-members had considerably increased during the past year, and that the collections in Liverpool during that period amounted to nearly 8,000*l*.

NEW CROSS.—On Wednesday, May 20, a new Baptist chapel was opened in Brookley-road, New Cross, of which the Rev. J. T. Wigner, late of King's Lynn, is the pastor. The building is in the decorated Gothic style of architecture, and will hold about 900 persons. The Rev. Jesse Hobson and the Rev. Chas. Stanford read the Scriptures and prayed. The Revs. J. T. Wigner, W. Tiddy (Independent), W. Woods (of Woolwich), and S. Green, took part in the service. The Rev. Dr. Raleigh preached upon the occasion. Dinner was provided in the spacious schoolroom. Alex. M'Arthur, Esq., of Sydney, New South Wales, occupied the chair, and congratulated the friends upon their beautiful and commodious place of worship. Though belonging to a different denomination—the Wesleyan—he rejoiced in the erection of such a house of God. There was a great need for such places in this metropolis, and he hoped that what had been done for New Cross might stimulate others in the laudable work of erecting new churches. Mr. Wigner stated that the chapel would cost 5,000*l*. A number of congratulatory speeches were given by several gentlemen from King's Lynn, who had known Mr. Wigner for seven-and-twenty years. In the evening a sermon was preached by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The collections and subscriptions through the day amounted to over 500*l*.

PORTLAND CHAPEL, SOUTHAMPTON.—The week before last special services were held in aid of the debt on this place of worship. The Rev. Chas. Williams, the pastor, preached special sermons on Sunday morning and evening. On Tuesday there was a tea and public meeting in the chapel, Mr. Alfred Pegler presiding. The Rev. C. Williams explained that he had promised to obtain 100*l*. from friends outside the congregation if the members raised 400*l*. by the spring of 1869. Nearly the whole had now been subscribed, but 120*l*. had still to be provided for a new organ. The Rev. H. H. Carlisle, of Above Bar Chapel, then gave utterance to his feelings of gratification in regard to Mr. Williams's pastoral and general services in this town, after which the Rev. R. Caven, of East-street (Baptist) Chapel, read a portion of Scripture. This was followed by a devotional exercise and a hymn. At the close, the Rev. A. McLaren, of Manchester, formerly the pastor of the church, ascended the pulpit and preached from the 11th verse of the 23rd chapter of the Acts. At the close of the service a collection was made at the chapel doors in aid of the debt.

NORWICH.—At the invitation of the Mayor (J. J. Coleman, Esq.), nearly all the Sunday-school teachers of Norwich were entertained at tea in St. Andrew's Hall on Thursday evening. The *Norfolk News* says:—"No fewer than thirteen or fourteen thousand persons, young and aged, engaged in the noble and useful task of teaching Christian principles to the young, met together on the occasion, and formed one of the most exhilarating sights that have ever been witnessed in the ancient building. The immense party included representatives from all the schools in the city, with the exception of three or four connected with the Church of England, and it was a cheering sign of the advancing intelligence of the age, and of the spread of liberality of sentiment, that Christians of every shade and variety of opinion were mingled together in social harmony and formed a happy reunion. Of the four schools, each of which as a body declined to take part in the proceedings, it is believed that not more than one of them was entirely unrepresented. The number of guests from Church of England schools was about 400, the rest being connected with the various bodies of Nonconformists. The whole formed the largest body of Sunday-school teachers ever gathered together in our old city on a similar festive occasion. The hall was beautifully decorated with banners, flags, pennons, shields with mottoes, mirrors, and flowers in profusion. The entire entertainment was of the most sumptuous character, and will be long remembered by all present."

THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The report of the Finance Committee was given at the meeting of the General Assembly last Tuesday. It stated that the income of the Church for last year amounted to 395,554*l*. 12*s*. 4*d*. This exceeds the aggregate of funds for the previous year by 26,449*l*. 15*s*. 6*d*., and the aggregate for the year 1865-6 by 12,000*l*., which was the largest of any year. On Wednesday Dr. Buchanan gave in the report of the Sustentation Fund. This year they were in circumstances to declare, for the first time, an equal dividend of 150*l*. He glanced at the history of the fund for the last twenty-one years. He contrasted the state and position of the fund now with its position at the beginning of his convenship, during which period the fund has increased by 50,000*l*. a-year, and the dividend has risen from 120*l*. to 150*l*. a-year, while the number of ministers has greatly increased. The surplus this year will be participated in by 464 ministers, whose congregations contribute at the rate of 7*s*. 6*d*. or 10*s*. for each member. The increase to many ministers, small as it was, made all the dif-

ference between sinking and swimming. He commented on the equal-dividend principle, which, good and important as it is, has its limits as a power to raise the fund. They had found by experience all that the equal dividend principle was likely to achieve. Therefore they adopted the principle of the Surplus Fund—a fund whose action begins from the table-land of the 150*l*. equal dividend. The success which the scheme has attained is the best evidence in its favour. The report was adopted. On Friday, for the chair of Systematic Theology, vacant by the resignation of Dr. James Buchanan, there were nominated the Rev. James M'Gregor, of Paisley, and the Rev. Marous Dods, of Glasgow. Mr. Dods, however, had intimated that he would not accept the chair, and on a division Mr. M'Gregor was elected by 263 against 175 votes. Dr. Blaikie, of Pilrig, was elected Professor of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology by 269 against 128 votes for Dr. Thomas Smith.

THE LATE REV. S. B. SCHOFIELD, OF BURSLEM.—Our obituary this week notices the decease of this gentleman, who was for thirty-three years pastor of Queen-street Independent Chapel, Burslem. Mr. Schofield will be remembered as a man of unblemished integrity, an able preacher, an earnest Nonconformist, and a faithful Christian minister. During his public life he never withheld his sympathy and aid from those movements which have done so much to promote the progress of civil and religious liberty and the social and political well-being of the country; and on all such questions his views were generally of the most pronounced and uncompromising character. Mr. Schofield lived to see the triumph of the principles involved in most of these movements, and to receive, even from those with whom he had differed, many generous and gratifying tributes to his sincerity. His last public appearance was in January, 1867, when he was presented with a timepiece and a purse of one hundred guineas; clergymen and members of all Protestant denominations taking part in this gratifying expression of esteem. The funeral took place on Friday, and during the passing of the procession the shops of the principal tradesmen of the town along the route were closed, and the blinds closed in private houses. Mr. Schofield's remains were interred in the burial-ground attached to Hope Chapel, Hanley, and amongst the congregation at the preceding funeral service in Queen-street Chapel were Dr. Armstrong, Rector of Burslem, and several ministers of other denominations.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GODALMING, SURREY.—The foundation services in connection with the erection of a new Congregational church at Godalming, in Surrey, took place on Wednesday, the 27th ult. In the morning the Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., of Clapham Common, delivered an admirable address on "Congregational Church Principles." The memorial-stone was laid at one o'clock by Thomas Barnes, Esq., M.P. for Bolton, the dedicatory prayer being offered by the Rev. J. Bright, of Dorking. There was a public dinner afterwards, presided over by Thomas Simpson, Esq., of Uplands, Godalming. The attendance was exceedingly numerous. In the evening there was a public meeting, at which T. Barnes, Esq., presided. Addresses were given by the Rev. Newman Hall (of Surrey Chapel), Rev. J. Pillans (of Camberwell), Benjamin Scott, Esq., City Chamberlain, Franklin Allport, Esq., Rev. J. Ketley (of Farnham), Rev. J. Hart (of Guildford), and other ministers and friends. The Rev. T. Davies, the minister of the place, gave an interesting statement of the work recently done by the church in Godalming and neighbourhood, which was of a most encouraging character. The total cost of the chapel is estimated at 3,000*l*. Upwards of 1,300*l*. has been subscribed locally, and, in addition, the sum of 534*l*. was subscribed during the day. The chapel, which is intended to seat 350 persons, will, it is hoped, be opened about the commencement of the new year.

PROFESSOR JOWETT ON CHRISTIANITY.—On Sunday morning the Rev. Benjamin Jowett, M.A., Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford, preached at the Church of St. James, Marylebone, to a very large congregation. He selected for his text the 6th chapter of St. John's Gospel, verse 63,—"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." It was difficult, he said, to explain the relation in which the spirit of Scripture stood to the words of Scripture, the record of facts being necessarily of a passing and evanescent character. No fact written with pen and ink could be fresh as at first. Questions would arise about them to which no answer could be given, and the sense might alter with the ages, but there never could be any difference with regard to mercy, justice, taking up the cross and following Christ. It required no metaphysical or theological skill to understand them, and they did not suffer by translation from one language to another. God had made religion moral and not historical, but it seemed to have been the desire of men in all ages to invert that order. The signs and wonders which were connected with the Feast of Pentecost could not, he contended, have any relation to the Christian life. Such matters involved drawbacks to Christianity, and led many to speak of it as a failure. Some thought that the bounds of Christianity had been already fixed, and that the spirit of Pentecost had evaporated or been extinguished. Certainly, in many cases the spirit of party had taken the place of the spirit of Christ, and instead of Christianity having converted the world, the world had in too many instances converted Christianity. Another

reason why Christianity might be said to have failed was that Christians had not taken the right means to secure the end they had in view. Christianity had too often been at war with the progress of knowledge, which was the greatest power in the world. Yet, with the many drawbacks which might be mentioned, it would be a great mistake to suppose that Christianity had not a great influence on the character of the institutions of all countries in which it had prevailed, for inestimable blessings had flowed from Christianity, even in its mixed and adulterated state. What might be its hope for the future was a question of serious importance. Some professors of Christianity earnestly looked for the personal presence of Christ again on earth, while others thought that all the prospects of Christianity depended upon the union of the Greek and English and Roman Churches. For himself, he did not see anything to lead him to expect the accomplishment of any such events in the nineteenth century; indeed, the signs of the times were of a much more commonplace character. There was a tendency in the present day to receive the faith of Christ more naturally than in former ages; there was amongst men a greater knowledge of human nature than formerly. They knew better how to treat man, morally and physically; they saw more clearly how it was that man was a mere child of circumstances; and although they had made little progress in the removal of great evils from the large towns, still they had attained to a knowledge of evils of which their fathers were unconscious, and were making some advance towards remedying them. This, indeed, was one of the most hopeful signs for the future. If they could keep that path in view, they would never be guilty of the absurdity of supposing that they could do good to the souls of men while neglecting their bodies, that they could relieve physical distress by means which enhanced the moral degradation of the people.

BOND-STREET, LEICESTER.—The public recognition of the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., as pastor of the Congregational church assembling at Bond-street, Leicester, took place on Tuesday. In the morning a sermon was preached by the Rev. H. Allon, of Islington, from Acts iv. 16. The discourse was an eloquent defence of Christianity, in the exhibition of its power to produce results unknown to any other system. After the service a large company of ladies and gentlemen partook of a cold collation in the schoolroom, the pastor presiding. Mr. Lankester moved, and Mr. R. Toller seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Allon for his lecture on Congregational psalmody and his sermon that morning. Mr. Allon, in responding, congratulated the church upon its choice, and prayed that peace and prosperity might continue amongst them. Similar sentiments were expressed by Messrs. G. Baines, J. Stafford, G. Toller, J. Swain, and the Rev. C. H. Williams. In the evening there was a public meeting in the chapel, the Rev. R. Harley presiding. A hymn having been sung, the Rev. T. Stevenson offered prayer. Mr. Davenport, the senior deacon, read an interesting statement on behalf of the church assembling at Bond-street, which carried him back to its earliest history. The Rev. R. Harley, in formally acknowledging the statement, explained the circumstances which induced him to accept the kind invitation of the Bond-street people, and resigning his post as tutor in Airedale College, where he held the chair of logic and mathematics. The Rev. J. A. Picton, M.A., as a brother minister, offered his congratulations on the occasion. He said that Leicester was called by some the metropolis of Nonconformity. He fully accorded it a first place in Nonconformist effort, but it still appeared that there were some other things which wanted pushing on, and he trusted that the new pastor at Bond-street would help them. There were special spheres of work, such as ragged-schools and city missions, in which they might more generally co-operate. He commended the Sunday afternoon services for working men to the attention of Mr. Harley, and bespoke his sympathy and co-operation in that work. He hoped that his coming to Leicester would stir up not only his own church, but the ministers and population of the town. (Cheers.) The Rev. R. Bruce, of Huddersfield, eulogised Mr. Harley, and said there was but one independent minister a member of the Royal Society, and that Bond-street possessed that one. They should feel the loss of him in Yorkshire, but rejoiced that such a sphere of work had presented itself to him in Leicester. Congratulatory speeches were also made by the Rev. J. P. Mursell, T. Toller (Kettering), J. P. Allen, J. J. Goadby, and W. Woods, and then a few words were spoken by the Rev. W. Harley, of Addington, near Leeds, brother of the new pastor. The Rev. N. Haycroft referred to the distinctive positions of the Baptist and Congregational bodies, and urged the necessity of union between them. And as the Anti-State-Church Association had arisen in Leicester, so he hoped to see some organisation amongst them which should bring about an alliance between these two important sections of the Christian Church. (Cheers.) Some other addresses having been delivered, the proceedings concluded with the doxology and the benediction.

BEDS UNION OF CHRISTIANS.—The seventy-first anniversary of this evangelistic institution was held at Bedford on Wednesday, when a large number of ministers of the Congregational and Baptist churches in the county, including Luton and Dunstable, attended. In the morning, at eleven o'clock, a service was held at Bunyan Meeting. The opening service was conducted by the Rev. T. R. Stevenson (Congre-

gationalist) of Luton, and a very able sermon was delivered by the Rev. H. J. Gamble, of Upper Clapton, London. The service was concluded by the Rev. J. Andrews. In the afternoon, at four o'clock, a public tea was held at the Bunyan Schoolrooms. At five o'clock, a public meeting commenced with singing and prayer. The Rev. P. Griffiths (Baptist), of Biggleswade, secretary, read the report, which stated that the union was essentially a Home Missionary Society. The funds raised by it are expended in assisting some of our poor churches, and in defraying the expenses of village preaching, and in evangelistic labour. "From the several churches assisted by the Union the reports are encouraging, and the help given by the Union most gratefully received and acknowledged." Various details were given on the subject, and it was stated that there was a debt of about £42. to be met. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Frost (Cotton End), T. Hande (Luton), T. R. Stevenson (Luton), J. Dixon (Dunstable), and the report was adopted. The Rev. J. Brown, B.A., said he was glad to see ministers from distant parts of the country, and it was a good thing that Baptists and Presbyterians should band together in the Union. He was convinced that voluntarism had not yet completed its work, but it had a greater work to accomplish, and they should do all in their power to spread the truth in the villages of their own county, in order to counteract the influence of those men who were endeavouring to restore the traditions of men instead of preaching Christ. The Rev. J. Andrews (Congregationalist), of Woburn, also delivered an interesting address. In the evening there was a large congregation at Howard, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. T. R. Stevenson, of Luton. The collections made during the day amounted to about 17l.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—On Saturday week an interesting educational meeting of Friends was held at Bishopsgate-street after the morning sitting of the yearly meeting. Mr. F. Thorp, of York, presided. Many statistics of the Friends' schools were read. It appeared from these that the Friends annually expend about 28,000l. upon the education of 970 children. This is in addition to the interest of large endowments in aid of the education of the same. The results of the recent examinations of the Friends' schools have been very satisfactory. In particular, a good knowledge of the plain everyday branches of English education has been aimed at. Technical knowledge has been given in most of the schools. Thus, at one of these, an electric telegraph is in daily use by the boys. In others, carpenters' shops, well supplied with tools, are habitually worked in by the scholars, some of whom thus acquire a practical skill in the use of tools, which they find very valuable in after life. One Friend mentioned that his own son, immediately after leaving the Quaker school at Ackworth, where there is a well-used carpenter's shop, was found equal to "half a journeyman" by a firm of builders. In many of the Quaker schools the study of natural history is encouraged amongst the pupils in their leisure time, by the offer of prizes for the best collections of plants, insects, shells, &c. Bird-stuffing, sketching from nature, and other similar pursuits are also facilitated. Thus habits are formed which are pleasant at the time, and which in after years afford a constant source of self-amusement and instructive observation. Thus the Quaker young men are often prevented from having recourse to dissipating and vicious indulgences. The committee of one of the Quaker schools in the north of England have commenced a plan of recommending their former scholars to the continued care and kindly visitation of local agents throughout the country. Complaint was made that, whilst there is abundant provision for the higher education of young men and boys in the Friends' institutions, there is a great lack of a system of superior instruction for girls and for the training of female teachers. It was advised that measures should speedily be taken to remedy this defect.

ILKLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The foundation-stone of a Congregational church was laid on Saturday, at Ilkley, where hitherto little has been done to meet the spiritual requirements of the large and increasing number of visitors who, during the greater part of the year, frequent this most retired and pleasant watering-place. The present church is promoted principally by Congregationalists belonging to the large towns from which Ilkley is easy of access, and this fact was borne out at the ceremony of Saturday, in which representatives from Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, and Wakefield took part. The total cost of the church and an adjoining school that is nearly finished has been estimated at about 5,000l., and towards this sum nearly 3,000l. have been promised, including 400l. from Titus Salt, Esq., 200l. each from Messrs. J. Law, H. Brown, John Jowitt, and J. Robertshaw and Sons, and 100l. each from Sir Francis Crossley, Bart., M.P., Samuel Morley, Esq., and Messrs. W. H. Conyers, Titus Salt, jun., George Salt, Dr. McLeod, G. G. Tetley, John Crossley, Silas Scott, and smaller sums from E. Baines, Esq., M.P., J. Remington Mills, Esq., M.P., &c., &c. without a general canvass of the Riding. The architect is Mr. J. P. Pritchett, of Darlington, and the style he has adopted is Gothic of the fourteenth century. The laying of the stone was witnessed by a large number of people, many of whom had taken advantage of special trains run for the occasion from Leeds and Bradford. After a hymn had been sung, the Mayor of Wakefield presented to the Mayor of Bradford a silver trowel and a mallet of neat design, that had been made for the occasion by the treasurer to the Building Fund (Mr. Titus Salt, jun.), and in a few apt sentences requested his worship

to lay the stone. Mr. Alderman Brown having placed in the cavity a jar containing a copy of the newspapers and articles usual to such ceremonies, the stone was lowered into its place, and was duly laid. The Mayor of Bradford gracefully acknowledged the honour which had been conferred upon him. The Rev. Mr. Bruce then offered up a dedicatory prayer; and, another hymn having been sung, the Rev. Mr. Conder gave an interesting address on Congregational principles. A hymn was then sung, and at the close of the proceedings the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Hastie. The company then adjourned to the Crescent Hotel, where a sumptuous tea had been provided, at which Mr. J. P. Clapham, J.P., presided. After the tea brief congratulatory remarks were made by the Revs. H. Tarrant, of Leeds; T. T. Waterman, B.A., of Bradford; Mr. Harley (Wesleyan minister), of Ilkley; Mr. Councillor Conyers, Mr. J. P. Clapham, Mr. H. Brown, Mr. J. P. Pritchett (the architect), and others. Acknowledgments were also duly made of thanks to the Mayors of Bradford and Wakefield, to Mr. J. P. Clapham, and to the ladies. The new church is to be in the decorated style of Gothic architecture, or the second pointed style of the fourteenth century. The dimensions of the interior will be 64 feet by 42 feet, the extreme length 79 feet, and the accommodation in the area and an end gallery 444 sittings, allowing twenty inches for each person. By the addition of side galleries, 200 more persons can be accommodated at a very small expense, increasing the number of sittings to 644. The school, which is nearly finished, and will be opened for Divine worship in the course of a few weeks, is 50 feet long by 22 feet broad, with two class-rooms at the end, beyond which will be a chapel-keeper's house, containing living-room, kitchen, and bedrooms. It is to be hoped that the church will be opened next spring completely free from debt.

Anniversary Meetings.

FIELD-LANE RAGGED-SCHOOL.—The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Field-lane Ragged School, Servants' Home, and Refuges for the Homeless Poor, was held on Wednesday evening at the schoolroom, Little Saffron-hill, Farringdon-road. A large number of ladies and gentlemen attended, and addresses were delivered by Captain Tichborne, R.N., the Rev. James Smith, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Payne, and other gentlemen. The institution, which was the first of its kind in the metropolis, has since its establishment been the means, not only of greatly benefiting the poor who have more immediately come under its influence, but has also led to the starting of kindred institutions in many parts of the kingdom. No less than 125,718 men, boys, and women, have passed through the refuges, 106,000 have attended the ragged-schools, and 13,639 men, boys, and women, have been provided with situations or work. The figures relating to the work of the past year are equally satisfactory, and afford ample proof that the benefits conferred on the poor by the institution have been and still are increasing. The aggregate attendance at the ragged church during the year was 42,760, and the committee estimate that no less than 50,000 persons derived advantage from the institution during the twelve months. The fact that the broken food from some City firms had supplied 100 persons with a dinner daily, will show that the attention bestowed on the poor by the school is not solely of an educational character. Resolutions expressive of gratification at the work effected, and determination to employ increased efforts in the future, were unanimously adopted, and Lord Shaftesbury, who presided over the meeting, in replying at the close to the vote of thanks which had been awarded him, expressed his opinion that reports such as those which had been read by the secretary that evening, ought to be printed and embodied in the blue books and presented to both Houses of Parliament, because from such reports the members would derive a more intimate knowledge of the wants and condition of the people, and of the perils besetting their paths, than they would from all the debates from the commencement to the end of the session. Referring to the unhealthy, demoralising, and degrading tone of much of the cheap literature of the day, the effect of which upon the more youthful portion of the population was too frequently to render crime captivating and familiar, the noble earl dwelt upon the necessity of all the true friends of the poor endeavouring to counteract the evil tendencies of these pernicious and immoral works, by the dissemination of a more healthy but equally cheap literature, an attempt which would naturally be attended with considerable difficulty, inasmuch as the former class of books were likely to find a readier response than the latter in consequence of their appealing to the lower instead of the higher instincts of human nature. The result of the efforts made both in connection with ragged churches and with preaching in theatres had gone to show that the people of England were not insensible to the claims of religion, but that the religion required was not connected with lights, incense, green coats, and gymnastics, but must be of the best and the purest quality. The institution, standing alone, as it at first did, was now one of over 200, all engaged in the same work, and he, who had been connected with it from its commencement, could liken himself to Alexander, for as president of the Ragged School Union, and chairman of the Field-lane Ragged School, he had attained the height of human ambition, his only

sigh being that they had still the same labour before them, combined, however, with the solace that they might reasonably hope that their efforts in the future might be attended by the same good results as they had been in the past. At the close a collection was made towards increasing the funds of an institution which has still a balance of 2,000l. on the wrong side of its bankers' books.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION—MANCHESTER DISTRICT MEETING.—The annual meeting of the circuits composing the Manchester district, was held in Bolton last week, in the chapel situate in St. George's-road. The business commenced on Tuesday afternoon, May 26th, at three o'clock, when a goodly number of the members had assembled, both lay and ministerial, and was continued on Wednesday, and until Thursday evening. The number present was upwards of sixty, and during their sojourn in the town, many of them were accommodated at the houses of friends. The Rev. John Taylor, superintendent of the Stockport Circuit, who during the present year holds the distinguished office of president of the denomination, occupied the chair, and the Rev. A. McCardy, of Stalybridge, and the Rev. T. Addyman, of Lees, were appointed secretaries. The business comprises the examination of ministers on probation, of whom there were six, and also of candidates for the college, of whom there was one. It may be proper to state that these examinations embrace the doctrinal opinions held by the candidates, their denominational preferences, and their general qualifications for the work of the Christian ministry. As one test to enable the friends to come to right conclusions in the duty imposed on them, public religious services were held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the chapel, when the Revs. A. Collinson and J. Young preached on the first occasion, and the Rev. E. J. Hope, and Mr. J. E. Radcliffe, a candidate for the college, on the latter evening. The several circuits were represented as follows:—Manchester (south): Revs. T. W. Ridley, W. G. White, D. Heath, S. Hulme, J. Wynne; Messrs. Webster, Moss, and Talent. Manchester (north): Revs. W. Longbottom, J. Le Huray; Messrs. W. Jenkinson, J. J. Harwood, F. Thompson. Ashton-under-Lyne: Revs. H. Piggin, L. Stoney, B. B. Tarnock, M.A., C. J. Donald, J. Medcraft; Messrs. J. Tipping, J. Kelsall, W. Tipping. Bolton: Revs. E. J. Baxter, C. Bamford; Messrs. A. Pilling, J. Cunliffe, J. Openshaw, J. Marsden. Hurst: Revs. S. Smith, A. Collinson; Messrs. J. Sandiford, J. Ashworth. Mossley: Revs. J. W. Williams, T. Addyman; Messrs. H. Atherton, J. Shaw, and C. Shaw. Oldham: Revs. S. Meldrum, J. Young; Messrs. J. Hadfield, T. Whitehead, J. Smith. Rochdale: Rev. T. Masterman; Mr. E. Kitchen. Stalybridge: Rev. A. McCardy, J. R. Swift; Messrs. J. Davies, J. Parker, B. Worth. Stockport: Revs. J. Taylor, E. J. Hope; Messrs. G. Chapman, Lister, and Whittaker. Blackburn: Rev. B. Baker; Mr. J. Rothwell. Bury: Rev. S. Walker; Mr. B. Lord. Southport: Rev. J. F. Goodall; Mr. B. Fowler. The number of members in the district was announced to be 3,793, being an increase of thirty-six on the year, with 309 on trial. During the year the sum of 1,871l. 8s. 7d. has been contributed to the connexional funds, including 1,265l. 18s. 2d. for the Foreign, Colonial, and Home Missionary Societies, in addition to 8,000l. raised for the erection of chapels and schools, beside the current responsibilities of trust estates and ministers' salaries. There are fifty chapels in the district, 29 ministers, 115 local preachers, 12,287 Sunday scholars, and 1,722 teachers. The deliberations were characterised by great earnestness and unanimity, and the best feeling was maintained throughout the entire proceedings. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Ashton-under-Lyne.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday the clauses of the Poor Relief Bill were discussed in committee, and divisions were taken upon several proposed amendments; but no material change was introduced, and the bill finally passed through that stage. The sitting was concluded at twenty minutes to seven o'clock.

On Friday the Royal Assent was given to some public and private bills.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY presented petitions for the removal of religious tests. One of them, which was signed by 102 persons, now or formerly fellows of the University of Oxford, set forth that theological tests at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, while failing to secure unity of religious opinion, had proved injurious to learning and education, and had the effect of excluding large numbers of her Majesty's subjects from the benefits of University education. The petition was signed by gentlemen of great weight and reputation. The other petition, to which he attached even greater importance, was signed by eighty resident members of the University of Oxford, and what was exceedingly remarkable was that it included the names of sixty out of the 105 tutors and lecturers of the University of Oxford, representing, therefore, a distinct majority of the whole teaching power of the University. (Hear, hear.) In

Merton, Corpus, Trinity, and New Colleges the whole of the educational staff had signed; in Balliol, Oriel, Lincoln, and Worcester at least two-thirds of the staff had signed; and out of the whole eighteen colleges in which teaching was carried on there were only six where a majority of the teachers and lecturers had not signed the petition.

The importance of this petition consisted not only in the number of the signatures, but in the plainness and distinctness with which the petition declared that religious tests formed an hindrance to the extension of education to the whole nation, and ought to be removed. In the University of Oxford persons not belonging to the Established Church might proceed as far as the Bachelor degree, and at Cambridge as far as the degree of M.A.; but in both universities such persons were excluded from any share in the government. In this matter they had proceeded step by step, it was true; but still they had succeeded in making progress. But a very few years ago no one could be admitted to either University unless he conformed to the Church of England. Now Nonconformists were admitted to the benefits of the education given, but were still excluded from any share of the privileges and emoluments, and he ventured to think that was a state of things which was utterly untenable. He could understand the Universities being dealt with as institutions exclusively Church of England in their character, but he could not understand why, having admitted Nonconformists and Jews to enter the Universities and attain a certain degree, an arbitrary barrier should then be created to prevent their further progress. It must be admitted to be a matter of extreme importance that all the upper and middle classes of the country should have the opportunity of receiving the best education that the Universities could afford. Was it, therefore, a desirable thing that so large a portion of the middle classes as belonged to Nonconformist bodies should be excluded from the main benefits and attractions which the Universities held out? What were the objections that were capable of being urged? He thought they must either be objections derived from some argument connected with education, or else from some consideration exclusively connected with the Church. Could it be contended that the education of members of the Church of England would suffer by others, not members, being admitted to share in the privileges and emoluments of Universities? He knew that such an argument had been put forward, but he believed that since he had the honour of being a resident member of the University matters had not very much changed, and he could say for himself that the amount of direct religious instruction which he had received at Oxford was so infinitesimally small—(laughter and cheers)—that whether he had received it at the hands of one who was or was not a member of the Church of England made, he thought, exceedingly little difference. He remembered that a great portion of the instruction which was given at that time consisted of a short lecture on the Greek Testament given to fresh men during their first and second term, being left after that to their own devices, and of the Thirty-nine Articles, which men were compelled to get up with great labour, and, he feared, with little profit (a laugh), in order that they might be called upon to repeat them in the schools. If a similar system were pursued in the present day, he did not think, as far as religious teaching were concerned, anybody need much care whether the Universities were or were not opened to persons not being members of the Church of England. Undoubtedly, as far as those undergraduates were concerned who were going to take orders, their religious instruction was a matter of great importance, and especial care should be taken to preserve to them such advantages as they now enjoyed. It was not proposed that any alteration should be made in the lectures given upon special subjects of theology, and those wishing to receive special instruction in the doctrines of the Church of England, would continue to receive it; but could it be advisable that an exclusive policy should be persisted in with regard to the Universities as a whole merely for the purpose of securing the education of one portion of the people? The Church of England, he maintained, was not supported or strengthened by such a policy. The true policy of the Church, like that of every other institution, was to make as many friends and as few enemies as possible; and, believing that an exclusive policy and the maintenance of restrictions tended to make enemies, he believed that it was calculated to weaken the Church. It seemed to him that the Church would fare better if its adherents would allow it to stand upon its own merits. But, at the same time, he thought it would be admitted that the general operation of the law as referred to by the petitioners should be reconsidered, with a view to opening up the avenues to learning provided by the Universities to all the world. He ventured to suggest that the Universities were national institutions, that they should be maintained for the exclusive use of no particular portion of the community, and that when a petition such as that he presented came before them signed by those who were best acquainted with the character of their University, and undoubtedly had its interests at heart, Parliament should certainly pay great attention to its prayer, and, if possible, proceed to legislate in its spirit.

Lord Houghton pointed out the importance of these petitions, and expressed his hope that the bill on the subject would reach their Lordships' House this session.

He had always insisted on the distinction between Universities and Colleges; the one could fairly be regarded as imperial, the other partook more of the nature of a family; and he could, therefore, fully endorse the remarks of his noble friend respecting the moral influence exerted in such places. Very little theological teaching was directly imparted. Sound religious views it would be presumed were instilled in the minds of youth at home, and a college should, properly speaking, be required only to prevent its students from receiving any evil impressions, while it confirmed whatever was good in them. Some feared that the measures now advocated would tend to produce much theological controversy in the Universities; but such a fear was obviously groundless, because the Church of England itself contained in its various sects the elements of continual controversy, and as a matter of fact religious disensions had prevailed; if, however, no baneful influences arose from the polemics of to-day, it was not likely that harm would result if the sphere of possible controversy were enlarged.

Lord CARNARVON remarked upon the gradual but consistent attempts to destroy all religious teaching in the Universities.

The arguments of a less advanced school, to which his noble friend seemed to belong, asked for relief from religious tests, on the ground that the more a Church was deprived of artificial barriers in the shape of religious tests and securities, the more the cause of religious truth was likely to be promoted in a University. But could that rule be applied to any other description of teaching? The fallacy of the argument was apparent the moment it was applied to matters of secular education. Could it be argued that just as students in secular subjects were relieved from tests and examinations knowledge would be developed? The supposition was absurd. He, therefore, distinctly denied that the cause of religion would be promoted by the removal of tests. Such a course would perhaps produce that hazy, undefinable atmosphere of religious thought which reformers of Universities looked for; but would that be a desirable substitute for positive religion? His noble friend had said that religious teaching at the University in his day was very limited in extent. He had heard others who carried it a good deal further than his noble friend, and who contended that the present generation of undergraduates at Oxford and the younger masters of arts were strongly inclined to scepticism, and that therefore these tests could produce no effect at all. His reply to that was, first of all, that he denied the fact; and, secondly, even if it were so, that the argument based upon it was untenable, because scepticism was just now one of those phases of thought which was here to-day and gone to-morrow, producing no more real effect on public opinion than the wave which swept over the sands of the seashore but on its retiring still left the landmarks clearly definable. To abolish on that account tests which were created under other circumstances and for other purposes would be just as reasonable and sensible as in times of pestilence to destroy the hospitals, infirmaries, and the machinery employed for curing diseases under ordinary circumstances. His noble friend had spoken of this as a Dissenter's question. If it were so, they would know better how to deal with it, but what they were asked to do was not to remove tests and securities which pressed upon Protestant Dissenters, but to remove tests and securities which weighed upon dishonest Churchmen. The time would, no doubt, soon arrive when the Dissenters would have to determine whether they would side with the party which advocated the removal of these tests, or whether they would support those who insisted upon retaining them. In his opinion, those who supported the advocates of the removal of these tests would find themselves carried much further than they intended. Both parties were preparing for the conflict, and the religious Dissenters would soon have to determine whether, true to their religious principles, they would side with the cause of the Church of England—that cause which they had constantly recognised—or whether they would espouse the side of those who were distinctly its open and avowed enemies, and who desired absolutely to banish all religion from the educational system in our Universities. (Hear, hear.)

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE (Chancellor of Cambridge University) said there was a great and increasing minority in that University favourable to the removal of religious restrictions, which were, he considered, opposed to the spirit of recent legislation.

On the one hand, a petition against any relaxation of these disabilities had been signed by the University in its corporate capacity; on the other side, however, a petition had been signed by 226 persons, who were either professors or officers of the University or College Fellows past and present. The distinguishing feature of the petition was that the motive was not so much to obtain a large number of signatures as to secure the assent of men of mark and distinction, and it was worthy of remark that the names included those of many whose opinions on general questions were decidedly of a Conservative tendency. Petitions had also been presented from Trinity College, Christ's College, and St. Peter's College. The petition from Trinity was signed by a majority of the Fellows, by 32 out of 60, and he was informed that among the minority were several who declined to affix their names to a petition on the opposite side of the question. The petition from Christ's College had been signed by the Master and all the Fellows but one. What conferred a value on these petitions was that the maintenance of these disabilities was a practical grievance to the Colleges, and at the latter College he understood it was contended that the interests of the College had suffered material injury from the continuance of these tests. (Hear, hear.) At Trinity for many years past a large number of Nonconformist students had constantly been admitted, many of them being Presbyterian students who had received a portion of their education in Scotch Colleges, and the Fellows of Trinity spoke favourably of the result. He could not help thinking, looking at the fact that the uniform tendency of the legislation of late years had been to remove such disabilities, that it was hard that these tests should still be continued. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of ELY said he held in hand several very important petitions, which the rules of the House prevented him from presenting on that occasion. One of them, signed by 1,000 members of colleges, who had taken their degree and were of full age, urged their Lordships not to entertain either of the bills now before the other House of Parliament. He might further state that a short time since he had been present when a deputation from the University of Cambridge had waited upon the Primate with a petition or memorial, signed by 2,800 persons—a very large number when the difficulty of obtaining signatures from members of colleges scattered throughout Ireland, Scotland, and the Continent was considered. The petition, which was signed by many of the most eminent members of the University, urged the Archbishop of Canterbury to plead the cause of the University against the proposed changes. It was true that these changes were advocated by a certain number of persons who entertained extremely liberal views on the subject, but he should be sorry if their Lordships were to be carried away by those opinions, notwithstanding that they were entertained by very eminent members of the Liberal party. He could not agree in the re-

marks made relative to the theological lectures. Personally he had attended them when an undergraduate, and thousand had been indebted the whole of their lives to the religious education they had received at college. The system was a voluntary, and not a forced one at Cambridge. It was said that the colleges generally would benefit by these proposed changes being effected, but their Lordships must not forget that these colleges were purely Church of England bodies, founded by Church of England men for purely Church of England purposes. One of his predecessors, the Bishop of Ely, had devoted his episcopal revenues to the foundation of one of these colleges, and the Bishop of Peterborough had followed that example. It would be a strong thing were the Houses of Parliament, by their vote to sweep away all these institutions as they at present existed, and place at their head persons who might not be members of the Church of England or Dissenters, but Roman Catholics, or even persons of no religion whatever.

The Earl of CAMERDOWN begged their Lordships to consider whether the Universities were really national institutions, of the nation and for the nation, or merely to be devoted to the education and advantage of those who belonged to the Church of England.

The Bishop of LONDON insisted on the distinction between the Universities and the Colleges. The noble duke told them there was one advantage in the measure to which allusion had been made—namely, that each college was to be allowed to regulate this matter for itself; but if there was any right in the matter why should it not be regulated by Parliament itself. Speaking for himself he must say in his time, which was now some years ago, a great deal of religious instruction was given in the college. One third at least of his time as tutor was taken up in giving instruction on religious subjects.

The conversation then dropped.

ARTISANS' AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS' BILL.

The following peers were named as the select committee on this bill:—The Earl of Malmesbury, the Duke of Somerset, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Cardigan, the Earl of Kimberley, the Bishop of London, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Foley, Lord Portman, Lord Chalmersford, Lord Westbury, Lord Athlumney, and Lord Penrhyn.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Lord MALMESBURY having moved the adjournment of the House until the 8th of June.

Lord RUSSELL rose to call attention to the state of public affairs, and, after reciting the events which followed upon the vote of the House of Commons respecting the Irish Church, declared it was extraordinary and unprecedented that a Minister, being in a minority in the House of Commons, should remain in power for six months after advising the Crown to dissolve Parliament. He admitted that the course pursued was convenient to the Government and to the members of the House of Commons, but he imputed to the Government a desire to protract the Reform discussions, which had needlessly prolonged the present session. He sought from the Government an assurance that measures would be taken to expedite the registration, and urged more rapid progress with the Irish and Scotch Reform Bills and with the Boundary Bill. It was also desirable, he urged, that the Government should, on its appeal to the country, declare what were the principles upon which it relied for public approval, specially referring to the questions of education and the state of Ireland, upon which no definite policy had as yet been propounded. Quoting the Hyde Park riots and the Manchester rescue as evidences of the inability of the Government to preserve peace and maintain order, Lord Russell reverted to the adverse majority of the House of Commons, and asked whether the Government admitted as a constitutional principle that it was wrong to hold office without possessing the confidence of the House of Commons.

Lord MALMESBURY admitted the constitutional principle, but denied that it was proved the present Government did not possess the confidence of the House of Commons merely because it was not supported upon one question by a majority. The test of a motion of want of confidence had not been applied, and therefore it was reasonable to assume that for the conduct of the general business of the country the Government did possess the confidence of Parliament. He attributed the backward condition of Parliamentary business to the unnecessary introduction of the question of the Irish Church, to the destruction of which he declared himself a determined opponent, and concluded by stating that the Government were as anxious for a dissolution as any of their opponents could be.

The House then adjourned until Monday, June 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Thursday the Earl of MAYO, answering a question from Mr. MURPHY, said that, as the Roman Catholic hierarchy had declined to accede to the conditions which the Government attached to the granting of a charter to the Roman Catholic University, the question was at an end altogether.

SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

Mr. DISRAELI, replying to Mr. YORKE, stated that he should only avail himself of Mr. BAXTER's "instruction" to the extent of providing seven additional members for Scotland. The boroughs would be taken according to population.

The House then went into committee on the Scotch Reform Bill, resuming at clause 9, which relates to the representation of Glasgow; and Mr. GRAHAM moved an amendment to divide Glasgow into three wards, each to return one member, pleading in favour of it the

immense size of the new constituency, which would make it unmanageable to canvass, and enormously expensive to contest; and he put the sum at 20,000*l*. A long discussion followed, which was in the main a repetition of the arguments urged last year for and against the "representation of minorities," under which principle the bill proposes that future elections at Glasgow shall be conducted. Mr. DISRAELI reminded the committee that to accept Mr. Graham's amendment would be to rescind the resolution at which the House had arrived last year. Mr. SMOLLETT and Mr. BAXTER supported the amendment, as did also Mr. GLADSTONE, who urged that the experiment of the English Act would be sufficiently tried in the English constituencies to which it had been applied, and that the "voting by wards" which Mr. Graham proposed was a novel experiment equally deserving of trial. It had this additional recommendation—that it did not infringe the rights of the majority. Mr. Lowther, Mr. Schreiber, Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. Beresford Hope protested against the reversal of the decision of last year, and asked why Scotland should be exempted from this principle. Mr. B. OSBORNE replied that his object in exempting Scotland was to lay the ground for striking this odious principle out of the English Act. Mr. MILL argued in favour of the representation of minorities as an act of justice entirely apart from party considerations; but Mr. BRIGHT, on the other hand, warmly condemned it, characterising it as an odious innovation, eminently distasteful to the English constituencies to which it had been applied, and certain to produce chaos in all electioneering organisations. He denied that the principle had been deliberately adopted by the House last year. Originally it had been rejected by a majority of 140. Mr. Disraeli (as well as Lord Derby) being amongst its most earnest opponents. But when the bill came down from the Lords with this and other amendments (all of which the Commons struck out), the Government persuaded the House to accept it rather than offend the Lords and provoke them to postpone the bill. Colonel LLOYD LINDSAY claimed that if great towns were to be exempted from this principle it ought not to be applied to counties. Mr. LIDDELL, in opposing the amendment, attributed to Mr. Bright a "devoted adherent" to American institutions, which Mr. BRIGHT contradicted so tartly as to draw down on himself the condemnation of the Chairman, and Mr. LIDDELL retorted that, at any rate, Mr. Bright seemed an admirer of American manners. Mr. CARDWELL explained that, having last year voted in favour of the representation of minorities, he now supported the "voting by wards," on the same ground as Mr. Gladstone, that it was an experiment which deserved trying. Mr. DISRAELI reminded the committee that the controversy lay not between the minority principle and the present system of voting, but between the minority principle and a new plan, totally unknown to the Constitution, which had never been proposed before. Mr. HORSMAN replied that the metropolis was divided into wards in 1832, and Sir G. GREY added that the bill of last year divided the Tower Hamlets. On a division Mr. GRAHAM's amendment was rejected by a majority of 59—244 to 185.

A second division was then taken on an amendment proposed by Mr. BOUVIERE as to the boundaries of Glasgow, which resulted in a tie of 112 on each side. The CHAIRMAN, taking into consideration that a second opportunity would be afforded of debating the point on the schedules, decided with the Ayes, thus leaving the bill unaltered. Clause 9 was then agreed to, the actual application of the minority principle to Glasgow being postponed till the new clauses are brought up.

On clause 10, the proposition of the Government to combine the counties of Peebles and Selkirk was agreed to, after a short conversation, Mr. MONCRIEFF being the only dissident.

Mr. CRAUFORD proposed that the member thus obtained should be given to Aberdeen, but his motion meeting with but small support, he withdrew it, and the Government plan of conferring the member on a group of border boroughs, consisting of Hawick, Galashiels, and Selkirk, was agreed to.

The next division was on a motion by Mr. LAING to combine the counties of Ross and Sutherland. Lord R. LEVISON-GOWER made a spirited and effective speech in defence of Sutherlandshire, which, though its electors were only 120, had a population (25,000) larger than that of some counties and many boroughs represented by two members. Sutherlandshire also found powerful advocates in Mr. BOUVIERE and Mr. HORSMAN, who urged the committee, if it desired to get through the bill before Whitsuntide, to accept the Government plan as a whole, and to discountenance the amendments of private members, which now spread over twenty pages. Mr. DISRAELI resisted any further disturbance of the electoral arrangements of Scotland, and opposed also on its merits the proposal to disfranchise a constituency extending over a large tract of country and representing a considerable population.

Mr. GLADSTONE also protested against the disfranchisement of Sutherlandshire. On the suggestion of Mr. C. BRUCE, Caithness was substituted for Ross, and the proposal, as then amended, was supported by Mr. H. BAILLIE, Sir W. Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Serjeant Gaselee, Mr. M'Laren, Lord Elcho, and Lord H. Scott, but on a division it was rejected by 195 to 92. Clause 10 was then agreed to.

On clause 11, Mr. H. BAILLIE proposed to join the Wigton Burghs to Dumfries, in order to give a third member to Edinburgh, but it was negatived almost without discussion.

Sir E. COLERUOKE divided the committee on clause 12, which provides for the division of the county of Ayr, Lanark, and Aberdeen. His object was that the two members should be elected by the whole county;

but the committee agreed to the clause as it stood by a majority of 65—206 to 141.

Clause 13 was agreed to, completing the redistribution part of the bill.

The remaining clauses in the bill, which relate to miscellaneous matters, were rapidly run through and disposed of with a few verbal amendments, and the consideration of the postponed and new clauses was adjourned until Monday next.

In Committee of Supply a vote of 1,400,000*l*. was taken on account of the Civil Service Estimates.

Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

THE SUSPENSORY BILL.

On Friday, Mr. GLADSTONE inquired what course Government intended to take with regard to the Irish Church Bill, which stands for Friday next. Mr. DISRAELI said it was a bad bill and badly drawn, but he did not think it was for the Government to attempt to improve it, and therefore he should offer no formal opposition to the bill in committee.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

Mr. WALPOLE brought up the report of the select committee on the Boundary Bill. It recommends that the report of the commissioners shall be accepted in the cases of Bolton, Chester, Greenwich, Newport (Monmouthshire), Northampton, Preston, Stalybridge, and Windsor. It proposes modifications in the boundaries of Chelsea, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newport (Isle of Wight), Salisbury, Wilton, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hastings, and Oldham. It also recommends that the present boundaries shall be retained in the cases of Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bristol, Gateshead, Lambeth, Liverpool, Marylebone, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Reading, South Shields, Tyne-mouth, Warwick, and Wigan. A good cheer was given, which seemed to be accorded to the committee for its diligence and prompt action.

The motion for adjournment till Thursday having been moved, Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE brought up the oft-told story of the new Law Courts, his suffrage being for a location on the Thames Embankment, between Somerset House and the Temple. There was some talk, but nothing very novel came out; and Lord JOHN MANNERS finished the affair by a statement that the question of site had been settled by Act of Parliament long ago.

THE DISSOLUTION.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER asked Mr. Disraeli what steps he meant to take for expediting the dissolution of Parliament on the new constituency early in the autumn, and he pointed out various abbreviations of the processes of registration by which the new Parliament could be brought together by the 12th of November.

Mr. HIBBERT held that without disturbing the present arrangements a general election could be got over by the middle of December, so that candidates might eat their Christmas dinners in peace, and the new Parliament might be called together in January.

Lord ELCHO maintained that the question affected others besides the occupants of the two front benches, and protested against the holidays of private members being taken up in electioneering unless a great public necessity could be shown. There was no adequate justification for straining the ordinary machinery of registration merely to take a general election a month earlier, for, though the Government was in a minority on the Irish Church, on the subject of Reform, both this year and last year, it had commanded decided majorities. On the contrary, the public interest required that the election should not be precipitate.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON maintained that all contested business should be dropped, instancing the Electric Telegraphs, Foreign Cattle Importation, and the Corrupt Practices Bills; but Sir R. KNIGHTLY insisted that this Parliament was pledged to go on with the Corrupt Practices Bill.

After some observations from Mr. OTWAY, who was for an early dissolution, and from Mr. WHALLEY, who thought that the country should have ample time to apprehend the great question at issue,

Mr. DISRAELI, replying first to Mr. Milner Gibson, reminded him that he had already stated that the labours of the session should be confined to necessary business, meaning thereby the Supplementary Reform Bills. The Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices Bill he should give up with a pang, and if there were time he should desire to go on with it. The other bills mentioned were in the hands of the House, though there were particular reasons why they had not been formally withdrawn. To Mr. Forster's question he was not in a position to give a more precise answer than that which he had given two days ago, and it was a subject on which it was useless to speak except with the greatest precision. The subject had been for some time under the consideration of the Government, and though there had been several disturbing elements—such as the delay in passing the Boundaries Bill, and in the necessity of settling the Scotch and Irish boundaries—it was hoped they would be overcome. But in preparing any proposition for the consideration of the House it was most important that no suspicion should be suggested to the minds of the new electors that an attempt was being made to neutralise their privileges by hurrying and hustling on a general election. The result of this precipitancy would be the return of a Parliament in the election of which the great body of the people would think it had had no share.

Mr. GLADSTONE, referring with much severity to Lord Elcho's speech, rejoined that this was not a question to be settled by its effect on "private members' holidays," and that the "situation," as described by the Premier himself, called for the earliest possible dis-

solution. There were difficulties arising from the extreme inexpediency, under the circumstances, of employing the machinery of the old constituencies; but though nearly a month ago Mr. Disraeli had confidently stated that they could be surmounted, his tone was now changed. He had nothing but a vague hope to hold out, and could not even promise when he would satisfy the House. Mr. Gladstone, therefore, impressed on him the grave necessity of bringing the matter to an issue, and added that if the Government were not ready after the recess to declare their intentions, it would be the duty of independent members to take it up.

Mr. PAUL animadverted on what he held to be the angry and dictatorial style of Mr. Gladstone's speech, and generally on the violent and unrestrained tone of recent debates, instancing particularly Mr. Bouvier's gross attack on the Government a week ago, and the "lie direct" given by Mr. Bright to Mr. Liddell on Thursday. Those who had contributed most to the delays of the session had the least right to call for the withdrawal of important measures, and of all the bills before the House Mr. Gladstone's Suspensory Bill was the least necessary.

Mr. HARDY pointed out that until the Boundary Bill had been pushed forward it would be impossible to decide what precise measure would be necessary. He denied emphatically that the Government had changed its tone. Those who were skilled in the subject had their attention fixed upon it, and, if an opportunity were given, the Government would do what they could to hasten a dissolution.

Mr. CARDWELL expressed himself quite satisfied with this assurance, and here the subject ended.

Before going into supply, Mr. GREENE put a question to the Government as to their intention of granting a Royal Commission on coal-mine accidents. Mr. HARDY replied that the Government, but for the disorganisation of the session, would have attempted to deal with the question.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH, in moving to rescind the rule of debate which forbids allusion to debates of the other House, referred to recent infractions of it in language which Mr. GLADSTONE applied to himself, and which drew from him an explanation on the subject. Mr. DISRAELI defended the rule, and the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. WHALLEY made a long speech on the recent riots at Ashton and other places in Lancashire, blaming the Government and the local authorities for not affording protection to Protestant lecturers, and urging the necessity of an inquiry into the origin of these riots. Mr. HARDY rebuked Mr. Whalley for raising these irritating discussions, and intimated that the Government would make no inquiry except that which would result from the impending trials. Mr. BAZLEY exhorted Mr. Whalley to use his influence to withdraw Mr. Murphy from the northern towns, where he was creating a state of feeling dangerous to life and property.

Sir C. O'LOGHLEN, in moving for a copy of the Declaration against Transubstantiation, entered into a long and, as the Speaker pronounced it, a disorderly explanation of his motives in placing on the paper the notice of motion which has attracted so much attention, to relieve the Sovereign of the necessity of taking that declaration. He denied that Mr. Gladstone was cognizant of his notice, that it made any alteration in the coronation oath, or that it affected any of the securities for the Protestantism of the Crown. Mr. NEWDEGATE expressed his unaltered conviction that this was an attempt to tamper with a portion of the Act of Settlement. The motion was not pressed.

After Lord Mayo had fixed the committee on the Irish Reform Bill for next Monday week, the House went into committee of supply, and the votes in class 3 of the Civil Service Estimates (Judicial Expenses) were completed.

Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock.

TRIAL OF MR. EYRE.—CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY.

The grand jury of the county of Middlesex was sworn in yesterday morning in the Court of Queen's Bench before Mr. Justice Blackburn.

His Lordship said they had been summoned as the grand jury of the Queen's Bench in the county of Middlesex to inquire into a case of which they had all probably heard, viz., that of Mr. Eyre, ex-Governor of Jamaica. In 1865 Mr. Eyre was Governor of Jamaica, and in October of that year an insurrection broke out in that colony, and what they had to investigate was whether he exercised legal or illegal powers in putting down that insurrection. Now it could not be disputed that the governor of a colony in council had the power of proclaiming martial law and sending troops into the proclaimed district in order to summarily suppress an insurrection. That had been done in this instance, and extended over a period of thirty days after the armed insurrection had been put down, and the question is whether in what Mr. Eyre then did he did that which made him criminally responsible. It was of the greatest importance that the law should be correctly known, and after he had fully explained it to them they would apply it to the facts. It was his responsibility to lay down the law, and theirs to decide the facts, and say what ought to be done. By an Act passed soon after the Revolution, in the reign of William III., it was enacted that charges made against governors of colonies should be tried in such county as the King by his commission shall point out. And by a subsequent Act, the 42 Geo. III., cap. 85, it was enacted that any governor

guilty of any crime, misdemeanour, &c., under the execution, colour, or in the exercise of his office, should be tried in the Queen's Bench by indictment found by a Middlesex grand jury, and afterwards tried by a jury from the same county, as if the offence had been committed within the county. All, therefore, that Mr. Eyre did was so done as Governor of Jamaica, and the next important question was what were the crimes or misdemeanours with which Mr. Eyre was charged. They would have to consider what was the text of the rule of law in the case of an officer whose duty it was to put down insurrection which made him criminally responsible for any acts he had done. The duty and responsibility of such an officer in the suppression of an insurrection must vary according to his powers by the general law and particular statutes. The powers of the governor of a colony were more extensive and very different from those of a lord-lieutenant of a county and the mayor of a borough, and consequently what he might be authorised to do and what he could not do was different, but the principle applicable to them was the same. About thirty years ago, when the Bristol riots broke and much mischief was done, the Government thought the then mayor of that city, Mr. Pinney, had not exercised his duty as mayor of the city in putting down the riots. The difference between these cases was this, that Mr. Eyre was charged with exceeding his duty, and Mr. Pinney with neglecting his. In the latter case at a trial at bar Mr. Justice Littleton laid it down that a man who had to put down a riot was not bound to hit the exact line between excess of duty and neglect of it, and the question was whether he had done what, in point of law, was required of him. The question left to the jury in that case was whether Mr. Pinney had done all in his power to suppress the riots that could be reasonably expected from a man of ordinary firmness, prudence, and moderation. A man who so neglected his duty was criminally responsible.

Now (the learned Judge proceeded) he could not strictly define what made a man criminally responsible, because a great deal must depend on the individual case, and he left it to the common sense of the grand jury. He, however, must tell them that if an officer did an act altogether beyond the powers conferred upon him even for the salvation of a colony, although it might be good ground for an act of indemnity or the exercise of the Royal prerogative, it was no bar to a criminal prosecution. Honesty of intention was no doubt greatly in favour of a man charged with a misdemeanour in the exercise of his duty, but it was not in itself conclusive in his favour. It was a very important circumstance in the consideration of the case, but he was bound to tell them that the governor of a colony was bound to exercise ordinary firmness, judgment, and moderation, and in such a case the jury had to determine first, whether the circumstances were such that what was done was done in excess of duty; and secondly, whether a person placed in Mr. Eyre's position, with the information he possessed, using ordinary judgment, firmness, and moderation, could have perceived there was an excess. Much allowance must be made for the difficulty of Mr. Eyre's position, but not too much, and how much had more or less always to be determined by a jury. It was hard to define, as he had said, what excess would make Mr. Eyre criminally responsible, and this must be considered much as a question of common sense, to be decided by a jury taking all the facts into consideration. The extent of Mr. Eyre's responsibility must depend upon the law then in force in Jamaica. The learned judge then at considerable length pointed out the law as applicable to colonies known as settled colonies and conquered colonies. There could be no doubt that the law of England was applied to Jamaica as a conquered country by the prerogative of the Crown in the time of Charles II., and that what was the law in this country with reference to martial law was applicable to Jamaica. That had been altered by the laws passed by the Jamaica Legislature, and the question was what power, more or less, had been given by them for the declaration of martial law in that colony. The learned judge then reviewed the law of the country with reference to the declaration and exercise of martial law from Magna Charta down to the present time, and said that to keep up martial law for a period of thirty days after an armed resistance had been put down was unreasonable, and no one could doubt that it exceeded much the prerogative of the Crown. Upon these facts, if they thought them proved, it would be their duty to return the bill and have them further inquired into. A third and great question was whether Mr. Eyre caused Gordon and four others to be brought into the proclaimed district and tried. Gordon, as they all knew, was executed. The others were afterwards tried, and one convicted, and three acquitted. In dealing with that part of the case they must consider what was the motive and circumstances which induced Mr. Eyre to cause Gordon to be removed into the proclaimed district. There could be no doubt that Gordon was a pestilent firebrand in close communication and using violent language with those actually in insurrection, and when they murdered the Custos. He did not think the evidence against Gordon amounted to more than that. He thought he was a violent, pestilent agitator, whose injudicious language caused the rebellion, but that he was not a party to an organised conspiracy for a rising throughout the island. It was, however, generally believed at the time that he was so, and no doubt Mr. Eyre really believed that he was guilty. If they thought that Mr. Eyre considered at the time that Gordon was a violent fellow, whom it was better not to try by the ordinary law of the island, conceiving

that by some technicality he might escape punishment, but to send him to Morant Bay, try him by court-martial, and get rid of him, it was an act of great and lawless oppression, and they ought to find the bill; but if they were of opinion that he acted in a contrary spirit, and used ordinary firmness, judgment, and moderation, and from a *bona fide* belief in the honest discharge of his duties, they would not find the bill. The specific acts of brutality could not be charged personally to Mr. Eyre, because in all probability he had no knowledge of them, but they were the result of a continued state of martial law in the island. His Lordship having gone minutely through the evidence to be brought in support of the indictment, said the first three counts were for illegally proclaiming martial law on the ground that Mr. Eyre had no power to do so in the manner and way in which it had been done. The next charge was that he exceeded his duty in keeping it up for thirty days, when, in point of fact, the actual armed resistance was stopped in a day or two, and that it was exercised in a wild and reckless manner to an extent and a degree beyond what was required. The charge then assumed various shapes in connection with Gordon's case, and there were also charges with reference to the others who were taken into the proclaimed districts and tried, and the flogging, &c. In conclusion, his Lordship said it was for them, guided by the law as laid down by him, to say whether or not they considered there was sufficient evidence for putting Mr. Eyre on his trial in answer to the charges that had been preferred against him.

The Grand Jury came into Court at ten minutes to four o'clock, and as the Court rose before three o'clock there was no judge to receive their decision. Mr. Justice Blackburn was then sent for, and arrived at five minutes past four, accompanied by Mr. Justice Lush.

The foreman then handed in the bill, when Mr. Norton, the Queen's coroner, said the grand jury had returned no bill.

THE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM.

A severe thunderstorm broke over the country on Friday. In London the morning was fine, but about half-past twelve the sky became overcast, rain suddenly fell in heavy drops, and the shower was immediately followed by thunder and lightning. The flashes were vivid, and succeeded each other in rapid succession for nearly two hours. At half-past one there were several vivid flashes, almost immediately followed by terrific crashes of thunder, accompanied by torrents of rain and hail. Some odd electrical effects of the storm were noticed in the newspaper offices. The bells of the telegraphing instruments were set ringing, and the needle vibrated fitfully when attempts were made to send messages. The storm ceased about half-past two, when the clouds dispersed, leaving the air much cooler than it had been in the forenoon.

Several accidents are reported. The Victoria tower of the Palace of Westminster was struck, but not seriously injured. The law lords felt the shock, and suspended their sitting. About one o'clock the steeple of St. Stephen's Church, Southwark, was struck by lightning. The top of the steeple is covered with tiles, which were stripped off, but no further damage was done. An hour later two seamen belonging to the bark *Constance*, lying off Rotherhithe, were struck by the lightning. One of the men, who was clasping an iron bar, is dreadfully injured, having nearly the whole of one side scorched from head to foot. His recovery is extremely doubtful. The other man remained totally blind for many hours. At half-past two the lightning struck the premises of Mr. T. B. Davy, linendraper, of No. 1, Church-street, at the corner of Dalston-lane. The electric current first caught the chimney-stack, and, running down the wall, passed through the conservatory, completely shattering the roof. Fortunately, this was the only damage done. During the storm a wooden house in East-street, Bromley, was struck by lightning. At Camberwell four houses were damaged. At Peckham the lightning, besides damaging two houses, killed a horse belonging to a gentleman living near the Rye, and destroyed a fine elm tree. Several houses were struck by lightning in the West End. Mr. Kelly, a newagent and stationer, at Blackwall Cross, was in his bedroom, when he was struck by the electric force, and fell dead upon the floor. His wife, who was in the room below, hearing the noise, ran up and found her husband a corpse. No damage was done to the house. A wagonette with five persons on the way to Epsom races stopped at a public-house at Ewell. While they were taking refreshment indoors the other two stood by the mare. A flash of lightning knocked them all down, the mare falling upon the two men. Those in the house immediately ran out, and found that Turner was quite dead and Draper was insensible. The mare was much frightened, but beyond a few scratches was unhurt. The reports from Epsom Downs—it was the Oaks day—were most dismal. The morning was very fine, but the storm and drenching rain cleared the course, and rendered the appearance of everything miserable.

At Brighton great damage was done at Windlesham House, a large boys' school. The clerks in the telegraph office were compelled to leave the place. Inspector Carpenter, venturing to enter the office, was met by a flash of electricity passing from one instrument to another. He was partially stunned and temporarily blinded, and did not recover for a considerable time. At Birmingham, unfortunately, the storm caused serious loss of life. The lightning struck a shed in a manufactory of fog signals. Six girls were at work in the shed, and a large number of fog signals were stored there. These were exploded

by the lightning. Two of the girls were instantly killed, and two more have since died. In the same town, according to the report of Mr. R. Plant:—

From nine to ten, meteoric stones fell in immense quantities in various parts of the town. The size of these stones varied from about one-eighth of an inch to three-eighths of an inch in length, and about half those dimensions in thickness. They resembled in shape broken pieces of Rawley rag-stone. A similar phenomenon visited Birmingham ten years ago. From North and East Yorkshire accounts have been received of the visitation of thunder, lightning, and rain, but no accidents are reported.

In the Yorkshire wolds much damage was done to trees and buildings, and also to stock, by the lightning, many of the farmers, Mr. L. Clarkson, of Kirby Grindlyth, particularly, losing several sheep which had taken shelter under the trees. A number of men who were at work in a brickfield belonging to Mr. T. D. Reeve, of Margate, at Hundred Bottom, were struck by the lightning, and all sustained injury, while one of the number, a man named Clarke, was killed. A barn on the farm of Mr. G. Allen, of Capel, Suffolk, was set on fire by the lightning. Four men who were inside narrowly escaped with their lives. The barn and a shed were both destroyed.

During the thunderstorm of Friday the temporary Congregational Church at Buckhurst-hill, near Woodford, of which the Rev. William Dorling is the recently appointed minister, was struck by lightning. It was instantly in a blaze at the apex of the roof. Some workmen close by brought ladders at once and extinguished it with water. If this had occurred at night the building would probably have been consumed. Three or four houses on the hill were also struck by the electric fluid.

The storm of Friday appears to have been severe in Paris as well as in London. The whole morning and afternoon, says the *Times* correspondent, the weather had been suffocatingly hot, but up to five or half-past five there was not a cloud. At that hour, however, the sky became overcast, and towards six masses of black clouds piled upon each other, with copperish fringes, spread over the heavens and nearly shut out daylight. Strong gusts of wind followed each other rapidly for three quarters of an hour, accompanied by flashes of lightning, and swept along in clouds of dust. The thunder was for some time only heard at a distance. It soon burst over the Forest of St. Germain, and rapidly spread over Paris, St. Denis, Epinay, Enghien, and Argenteuil and Montmorency. Before eight o'clock the storm grew more intense; the thick canopy of clouds was intersected by the lightning in all directions, and a little before nine it came down in full force in Paris. Its violence diminished about ten o'clock, and soon after entirely ceased. The lightning continued till eleven, and the heavy rain did not pass away till after midnight.

Postscript.

AMERICA.

(By Atlantic Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, June 2.

The Senate, by 34 against 8 votes, has passed the bill admitting Arkansas to representation in Congress. The bill had already been adopted by the House of Representatives.

THE EDMUNDS CASE.—Vice-Chancellor Giffard yesterday gave judgment in the case of the Attorney-General v. Edmunds. He affirmed, firstly, the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery over accountants to the Crown. Mr. Edmunds, he went on to say, had no right to take discount on stamps, if bought with money which he held simply as a trustee, and he must account for the sums of 12s. 10d. charged on every skin of parchment used in the preparation of patents, and the money was one of those fees and emoluments in lieu of which his salary was given. At the same time the Vice-Chancellor said there was not the slightest ground for imputation on the defendant's honour. Mr. Edmunds's conduct arose from a mistake partly brought about by the unfortunate language of an Act of Parliament, partly by the circumstance that he had been unable to obtain the audits he asked for, and he would not be required to pay any costs.

THE LORD MAYOR AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—As the conduct of the Lord Mayor at recent meetings has led, in some places, to a belief that in his statements respecting the Irish Church he represented the opinions of City men, it has been felt desirable to ascertain what warrant there is for such a belief. A requisition to the Lord Mayor has been prepared, and is now being signed by very influential City firms. It is in the following form:—"The undersigned citizens and ratepayers of the City of London respectfully request that you will be pleased to call a public meeting of the citizens, at the Guildhall, to express their sentiments upon Mr. Gladstone's Established Church (Ireland) Bill now before the House of Commons." The requisition has, although only a day or so been in circulation, received the signatures of Messrs. W. Leaf and Sons, Old Change; J. and R. Morley, Wood-street, Cheapside; Waterlow and Sons, London-wall; Mr. Labouchere, M.P.; Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P.; Mr. Hodgson, M.P.; Mr. Locke, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Lusk, M.P.; Mr. Ayrton, M.P.; Alderman J. C. Lawrence; Deputies Reed, Virtue, Webber, Stapleton, Butcher, and Tegg; and forty Common Councilmen.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The continuance of brilliant weather and the prospect of an early and remunerative harvest have had a further depressing effect on the grain trade. The small supply of English wheat on sale here to-day commanded very little attention and last Monday's reduced prices were with difficulty supported. Foreign wheat—of which the supply was extensive—was extremely dull of sale, at barely late rates.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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Advertisers of all classes will find THE NONCONFORMIST a valuable Medium for their Announcements.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ERRATUM.—Protestant Union.—Established 1798.—By a typographical error, the notice in our last number represented the annual meeting of this society held May 18th as the 17th, instead of the 70th anniversary.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1868.

SUMMARY.

A MORE glorious Whitsuntide season has hardly been known within living memory. The severe storm of last Friday interrupted for one day, without breaking up, the long spell of brilliant summer weather, and a bright sun has shone upon the holiday-makers. On no former occasion probably have so many people gone into the country to enjoy a day's rational recreation, and never do we remember to have seen the pleasure-vans more numerous, the trains better filled, or the streets more crowded, and—we fear it must be added—drunkenness more rife in London. But, on the whole, the tendency to enjoy this national holiday in reason and with moderation, thanks to the facilities of communication and the attractions of the Crystal Palace and other favourite resorts, is on the increase. There is good reason for confidence in the future. The bright settled weather of last month has brought forward the crops, and given us the prospect of an early and abundant harvest. Everywhere the grain is rapidly ripening, and, if the present sunshine should last, will be ready for the reapers in a few more weeks. The corn markets are falling, the price of bread is descending to an average rate, and the trade of the country, so long depressed, is now steadily reviving.

The short Parliamentary recess commenced on Friday, and will terminate to-morrow. On Thursday the Commons went into Committee on the Scotch Reform Bill, and got through all its clauses; though not without a trial of strength. The proposal of the Government to give Glasgow an additional member, and apply to that city the minorities' principle, gave rise to an interesting debate. Mr. Graham moved, as a substitute, that Glasgow should be divided into three wards, each to return one member, and was supported by Mr. Gladstone, who thought the experiment worth trial. Mr. Bright vigorously condemned the representation of minorities, adopted last year in connection with three-cornered English constituencies, and now proposed for a Scotch borough, as "an odious innovation," and certain to produce chaos in all electioneering organisations. But his protest was of no avail, the House was not disposed to rescind the decision of last Session, and Mr. Graham's amendment was rejected by a majority of 59. The redistribution scheme, as sanctioned on Thursday, is not extensive. The counties of Peebles and Selkirk are to be combined, a group of Border burghs is to be constituted a new constituency, and Ayr, Lanark, and Aberdeen counties are to be divided. But the claims of Edinburgh and Aberdeen to

an additional member each are set aside, owing to Mr. Disraeli's decision to take the seats of only seven of the condemned small English boroughs; and, by the help of Mr. Gladstone, the suggestion to abolish the separate representation of Sutherlandshire was put aside. The Scotch Reform Bill will now probably remain unaltered till the whole question of redistribution is reopened in a new Parliament. On the Irish Bill, which comes on for consideration on Monday week, little difficulty or delay is anticipated.

Before the recess, a strenuous effort was made by Mr. Forster to extract some information from the Government relative to the probable date of the dissolution. But Mr. Disraeli was so evasive and ambiguous in his reply, that Mr. Gladstone felt it necessary to repeat his advice for a Select Committee on the subject, and to state that if the Government were not ready after the recess to declare their intentions it would be the duty of independent members to take it up. This threat drew from Mr. Hardy an assurance that Ministers would do all in their power to hasten a dissolution, with which Mr. Cardwell, on behalf of the Liberals, expressed himself satisfied. Out of doors the electoral campaign is vigorously proceeding, and perhaps in another month the preliminary arrangements, and choice of candidates on either side, will have been generally made. Our columns will bear witness to this activity, which is the result of the current expectation that a general election will take place about the end of October. Though the Tory party make no noise, they are said to have a more perfect electoral machinery at headquarters, and a more ample reserve fund, than has been the case for many years past. They, at least, intend to fight in grim earnest, and they will find a powerful supplementary agency through the country in the local clergy, now zealously united, with few exceptions, in defence of the Irish Church.

Before adjourning for the holidays there was a very significant debate in the House of Lords on the University Tests question, raised by the Earl of Kimberley. The discussion turned mainly upon the weight of influence at Oxford and Cambridge for and against Mr. Coleridge's Bill. It elicited from the Duke of Devonshire, Chancellor of Cambridge University, a speech in favour of the abolition of these restrictions, and showed the great progress of the question in their Lordships' House. The *Times* marks the height of the rising tide. "The moral of the whole argument," says the leading journal, "appears to us to be this—that a change demanded on broad public grounds in behalf of the whole nation, and not only not resisted but actually invited by the most eminent of the very class whose privileges it would supersede, will assuredly be accomplished with little delay, and prove to be for the benefit of all."

The address of Mr. Walter, who once more presents himself as a candidate for Berkshire, sounds the right key-note. The coming election will mainly turn, he says, on two questions—the Irish Church and the removal of religious disabilities. Mr. Walter goes entirely with the Liberal party, of which he is an independent supporter. Time was when compromise on the Irish Church question was possible. The opportunity has passed, and "a grievance, unparalleled in the history of any other country, must no longer be permitted to remain a perpetual bone of contention between the two countries." The hon. gentleman has for some time been hesitating relative to the education and University questions, but he is carried forward by the stream, and now avows himself favourable to "the removal of all religious tests which have the effect of limiting the benefits of public education to members of a particular creed." In the peculiar position he occupies, such an address as that issued by Mr. Walter is not without significance. It marks the advanced position which the Liberal party, as a whole, has taken up. Though the most strenuous attempts were made to defeat the Liberal candidate for East Worcestershire by abuse of Mr. Gladstone, all kinds of misrepresentations, and active clerical agency, Mr. Lyttelton has triumphed over his opponent by the substantial majority of 259, to the great disappointment of the Tory clubs, which were specially anxious to defeat Mr. Gladstone's relative, and a county supporter of his disestablishment policy. Probably the long-looked-for Conservative reaction will not set in till the purse-strings of the Carlton are untied.

Yesterday the grand jury at the Court of Queen's Bench declined to find a true bill against ex-Governor Eyre for misdemeanour in connection with the Jamaica outrages. That result was probably influenced by the elaborate charge of Mr. Justice Blackburn. Mr. Eyre has finally escaped trial by the refusal of the

grand jury to proceed with the investigation, and we can hardly suppose that he will be again prosecuted. He is now, as the *Daily News* says, "in a position to appreciate the advantages of that trial by jury in default of which, after the insurrection in Jamaica had been suppressed, three hundred and fifty persons were put to death by court-martial, with his sanction, on testimony admitted to be wholly insufficient. If they had had the benefit which he has enjoyed of the laws of England and the rules of evidence, they might be at this moment as safe as he is. In the meantime, the case against him remains as it was. The evidence embodied in the blue-books, the censure of the Commissioners, the reproof of two successive Administrations, Mr. Eyre's recalcitrance and dismissal, and the resolution of the House of Commons, are not wiped out by the decision of the Grand Jury yesterday."

BOROUGH BOUNDARIES.

WE have a shrewd suspicion that one more of the safeguards which the genius of Mr. Disraeli devised for the purpose of making Household Suffrage acceptable, and if possible, serviceable to the Conservative party, will, like several of the others, prove to be a safeguard on paper only. The work of educating the country gentlemen seems to have demanded that they should be made sufficiently familiarised with an extensive scheme of Parliamentary Reform as to look upon it without terror, and, for their own objects, to support it without flinching. This was accomplished by their own leader, by presenting to them a grand central democratic idea modified and balanced by a number of Conservative counteractions, and of these a rectification of Borough Boundaries was submitted as one of the greatest efficiency. The Premier is entitled to credit in declaring that he had made the question of an amendment of the representation his special study. There can be little doubt that he had turned it over on all its sides to discover how an immense increase in the number of voters could be combined with the retention of political power in the hands of the landowners of the United Kingdom. Hence, what he called the "vital principles" of his measure, and hence the stress he laid upon a better definition of the topographical rectification of Parliamentary Boroughs. The right hon. gentleman could afford to assume, in reference to the latter subject, an air of perfect impartiality. Having won the assent of the House to the provision that no curtailment of borough boundaries was to be permitted, he could well afford to leave the nomination of the Boundary Commission in the hands of the House. Mr. Disraeli never entertained the hope of so manipulating the great "centres of representation" as, in the aggregate, to alter their political character. The larger they were the better for the Conservative party in the several counties in which they were situated. To drain them of their democratic element he regarded as impracticable, and therefore he sought to drain into them as much as possible of that element which has helped to democratise the counties. The "pocket boroughs" he was well aware could only be enlarged by an addition to them of a country and predominantly Tory population. One may guess, therefore, why the Boundary Commissioners were directed, in dealing with existing boroughs, "to ascertain whether the boundaries should be enlarged so as to include within the limits of the borough all premises which ought, due regard being had to situation and other local circumstances, to be included therein for the purpose of conferring upon the occupiers thereof the elective franchise."

The Commissioners, guided by, and tethered to, this instruction, did the work allotted to them with exemplary impartiality. But, as might have been expected, it did not give general satisfaction. Some boroughs became clamorous against the application of a seemingly Liberal, but a really arbitrary and inconvenient rule, to the determination of their own future limits. Some petitioned to have the decision of the Commissioners set aside in their own instance. Some instructed their representatives to the same purpose—and some, "hesitating dislike," were yet silent over their grievances. The result was, that the House of Commons declined to receive as final such alterations suggested by the Commissioners as were, or would be, protested against by the parties affected, on the ground that the Commissioners had been compelled to do as they had done by having had their hands previously tied by the Legislature. The matter, therefore, was referred to a Select Committee, so far as aggrieved boroughs were concerned, and thirty-three cases have been inquired into and reported upon unanimously.

The following are stated to have been the objections urged by the complainants—not, of course, every one of them in every case, but one or more of them in each. Apprehension of being brought within the probable area of municipal taxation; the difficulties and inequalities introduced by the change in the law of compound householding; unmanageable number of electors; the opposition of the wishes whether of the borough inhabitants, or of the districts proposed to be added, or of both, to the suggested annexations; non-community of interests between the two; the substitution of borough for county franchises; disturbances of conterminous municipal and Parliamentary boundaries now existing; absence of any social and fiscal relations between the borough and any added district; diminution of county voters to an objectionable extent; and such relations as would fall under the head of "grouping," so long as grouping is not extended by Parliament on principle. The bare statement of these reasons for challenging the suggested settlement of the Commissioners, may suffice to show how much local inconvenience may be inflicted by an astute exercise of party legerdemain, and how necessary it has been to treat with some show of regard the protests of complaining boroughs against the application to them, quite irrespectively of their local peculiarities, of a rule imposed upon the Commissioners by a master of all the wiles which, for the most part, form the staple of Parliamentary strategy.

Our local knowledge is too inadequate, and our space and time too pre-occupied, to admit of our offering a reliable opinion as to how far the recommendations of the Select Committee touching the boundaries of the thirty-three boroughs referred to them, merit the approbation of Parliament. Certainly we are not the less inclined to trust their decisions because the *Times* censures them with petulance as a "very 'big job,'" and takes up the cudgels on behalf of the Commissioners, whose only misfortune was to have been fettered by Mr. Disraeli's imperative, because legislative, conditions. But whatever they may be, apt or inapt for their respective cases, justifiable or unjustifiable on a calm review of the reasons for which they have been "unanimously" supported, we infer that another of Mr. Disraeli's mystical appliances for making things which are seem as though they were not, has been somewhat unceremoniously thrown overboard. Such appliances we know were devised, though for different purposes, to hoodwink both political parties, and we feel no regret that both have concurred in treating them with but scant reverence. It is clear, we think, that they have considered the case of each of the aggrieved "centres of representation," not in the light of some pre-determined rule, but with a due or undue regard to local circumstances. It was the understanding of the House that the report of their Committee should be accepted as final and conclusive. Should it be challenged by the Government, we shall be inclined to believe that Mr. Disraeli has again been too clever for success. All that his subtlety will have achieved will have been to have led his party into a position which they would not have selected for themselves, but from which there is no way of escape. The suspense will very soon be at an end.

REPORT OF THE NEUTRALITY LAWS COMMISSION.

It is well to gather wisdom from our own mistakes. In most respects it would, no doubt, be better still to be wise before, instead of after, the event. The case of the *Alabama* nearly precipitated a war between England and America—a repetition of it would almost certainly have done so. We know not whether any serious blame attached to Earl Russell for his somewhat dilatory discharge of duty in that particular instance. The case was new. The law by which it was to be reached was cumbersome. Our Foreign Enlistment Act did not cover the whole breadth of our international responsibilities. And, we may add, the temper of that upper section of society with which the noble Earl was most familiar, was unfavourable to any vigorous executive action which might throw discouragement in the path of the Southern States of the American Union. But it would have been unpardonable to have left our municipal laws in such a defective state as to be a hindrance to us in efficiently performing our duties to neighbouring nations. Certainly, we cannot claim the merit of having "used despatch" in setting right what our painful experience had taught us to be wrong. That pride which nations as well as schoolboys may best embody in the question, "Who's afraid?" prevented our taking any steps to arm ourselves with a sufficiently powerful weapon against pri-

vate war-making for the sake of gain so long as any one could suspect us of doing so under foreign dictation. But at length all excuses for leaving a bad law unamended were taken from us, and a Commission was appointed by the Crown to examine and report on our neutrality laws.

It was unquestionably a well-chosen Commission. The names of its members will guarantee respect, even where they fail to command assent for the conclusions at which, after mature deliberation, they have arrived. No man could have been better qualified to deal with the subject referred to them than Lord Cairns, Lord Cranworth, Sir W. Erle, Dr. Lushington, Dr. Phillimore, Sir Roundell Palmer, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, and Mr. W. E. Forster. They present a combination of legal erudition and acumen, historical information, and robust common sense, such as was specially needed for the work they were charged to perform. For ourselves, we accept with thankfulness all the recommendations of the report. They seem to us at once simple and effective. They are not voluminous, but they meet the case. We shall glance at them *seriatim*, only divesting them of that legal verbiage which, however necessary for exactness, seldom assists the lay understanding, and never contributes to raise lay interest. They are to the following effect.

The Commissioners recommend such an amendment of the Foreign Enlistment Act now in force (1) as will prohibit the preparing or fitting out a naval or military expedition in any port of the United Kingdom, intended to act against a belligerent with whom we are at peace; (2) as will constitute the act of fitting out and dispatch of a vessel so destined, or the partial equipment of her here, with a view to the complete equipment of her beyond our own waters, a misdemeanour; (3) as will arm the Executive with increased powers to act against an offending ship-builder, like Mr. Laird, wherever there is a reasonable or probable cause for believing that he is constructing a ship for the use of a belligerent against any Power with which our Sovereign is at peace; (4) and as will make it a misdemeanour to hire and engage seamen by false representations as to the object of the voyage. The *onus probandi*, instead of resting upon the Government, will thus be thrown upon the suspected ship-builder. The Secretary of State, in case the recommendations of the Commissioners are adopted by the Legislature, may issue a warrant, under the authority of which the Customs' Commissioners may search the ship, and detain her until she is either condemned or released by the Court of Admiralty, and all the Governors of our Colonies are to have the like power. Moreover, it is advised that for the future no vessel in the employ of a belligerent, which has been built, fitted out, armed, or despatched, in evasion or defiance of British municipal law, shall be admitted into any British port.

Such are the principal recommendations of this report. We hope they will be framed into a Bill, and put upon the Statute-book without delay. We must say that we have no sympathy with the objections which are taken against some of these provisions on the ground that they will, by interfering with the free action of ship-builders, cripple an important branch of manufacturing industry. In the first place, we are not warranted to put in peril the general interests of the country for the sake of protecting any particular employment from suffering. In the second place, we are by no means certain that, as a matter of fact, ship-building would be materially injured by the surveillance to which it is proposed to render it amenable in the case supposed. But if it should be so, the Commissioners who, doubtless, discussed the point with care, seem to have concluded that it is a far less evil to impede the free action of a particular trade than to allow it, in pursuit of its ends, to endanger the peace between ourselves and our belligerent neighbours, and then make public boast of its successful evasion of the law.

THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.

THE full accounts now received from Washington, leave little room for regret at the breakdown of the indictment of President Johnson. It was too obviously a party movement, in which the object was to subserve partisan rather than national objects—to obtain a conviction not according to the evidence, and to secure the condemnation of Mr. Johnson at all risks. The test vote taken on May 16th on the Eleventh Article of the impeachment, which was reported a fortnight ago, proved decisive. The managers had chosen this particular article—viz., that charging Mr. Johnson with seeking to obstruct the execution of the Tenure of Office Act, by illegally attempting to prevent Mr. Stanton

from resuming the functions of Secretary of War—as likely to secure a larger number of votes than any other. They knew that five Republicans, whom no expostulations or denunciations could move, were prepared to vote against that particular charge, and the decision of the Senate ultimately rested upon the turn of one vote. That vote was cast adversely to the prosecution by Mr. Ross, the Senator for Kansas, who, amid a scene of great excitement, and somewhat unexpectedly, nervously uttered the words "Not Guilty," when his turn arrived. So far as appears, this decisive vote was honestly given, notwithstanding great external pressure; and the requisite two-thirds majority not having been obtained, the President was acquitted. On the 26th of May, other articles were submitted for the decision of the Court, but in this case the failure to secure a majority was more conspicuous, and the Senate adjourned *sine die*.

Though party feeling has run high in this memorable trial, it is satisfactory to know that the law has been vindicated, and the reputation of the Senate, as an impartial judicial tribunal, has been well sustained. These are far more substantial results among a community like that of the population of the United States than a party triumph. Chief Justice Chase, who, by his dignity and firmness, contributed to secure an impartial trial, and the Republican Senators who steadfastly refused to vote against their convictions, have done more to sustain the proverbial reverence of their countrymen for legality than the partisans who pressed for a conviction at all hazards. Mr. Johnson remains for a short time longer in office. He has apparently been sobered by his narrow escape, and has resolved, it is said, to withdraw all active opposition to the Congressional plan of Reconstruction. The quiet resignation of Mr. Stanton, and the appointment of General Schofield as his successor, with the sanction of the Senate, indicates that the schism between the President and Congress is at an end, and that though the extreme Republicans have been defeated, the national cause has sustained no injury by the vote of the Senate.

It is obviously no loss to the American Union that it has not obtained for a few months a new régime at the White House. Mr. Wade could hardly have done aught else than needlessly irritate the South, and dispense among his party the Presidential patronage. It might have been an exchange of King Stork for King Log. Mr. Wade voted for the condemnation of Mr. Johnson—in other words, for his own elevation to the Presidential chair—a course which illustrates the lengths to which party feeling may be carried in America, and the neglect even of appearances for personal ends. The great numbers of adventurers who were paying court to the President of the Senate, and had already secured the reversion of offices which he might have had bestow, are disappointed. It is thus easy to understand the rage of partisans, and also the composure of the people in general, at the acquittal of Mr. Johnson. That gentleman has not, indeed, recovered his popularity, for his blind and dogged resistance to reconstruction when it might have been effected on reasonable terms cannot be easily forgotten, but the impeachment trial in the Senate gives him the air of a persecuted man, and a final opportunity of closing his term of office with dignity and credit.

Apparently American politics are about to enter upon a new phase. Though nominated by the Republicans at Chicago, General Grant is not a favourite of the extreme section of the party, and has never been identified with them. There is every reason to hope that if elected President during the coming autumn, he will fulfil the promise made to his supporters at Chicago of endeavouring "to discharge with honesty and fidelity the duties of any position to which he may be called by the will of the people." The Democrats have small chance of running against him any public man who will command so large a share of public confidence, and it is probable that he will eventually be chosen President by the suffrages of the great body of the people to put an end to party rule, and, without injurious compromises, to heal the differences between North and South. The "platform" adopted at Chicago gives evidence of a conciliatory spirit; and the Republican Convention in that town, by rejecting the claims of Mr. Wade to the Vice-Presidency and giving the preference to so respected a politician as Mr. Colfax, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, has given a proof of the moderate counsels that now obtain among the party. But whatever policy the nation may decide to be expedient for the future, there is every reason to hope that General Grant, with his strong sense of duty and his strength of will and judgment, will faithfully carry out.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The Emperor of the French was at Rouen on Sunday, on the occasion of the annual agricultural meeting there. The Emperor made two speeches. The first was addressed to the Mayor of Rouen, and in it his Majesty alluded to the past sufferings of the industrial and agricultural classes, which he hoped were now at an end. The Emperor's second address was to the Archbishop of Rouen, Cardinal de Bonnechose, and was as follows:—

The church is the sanctuary where the great principles of Christian morality are maintained intact, principles which elevate man above all material interests. Let us then join with the faith of our forefathers the sentiment of progress: let us never separate our love of God from the love of our country. Thus we shall render ourselves less unworthy of Divine protection, and be enabled to march with head erect in the path of duty through every obstacle.

The Emperor concluded by thanking the Cardinal for the good wishes expressed for the Empress and Prince Imperial, and said,

The blessing of the prince's august godfather and the prayers of the clergy of France cannot fail to ensure his happiness.

The *Constitutionnel* gives a formal denial to the statement of the arrest of three individuals at Rouen, suspected of meditating an attempt against the life of the Emperor.

In the Legislative Body a bill has been presented for calling out 100,000 men of the class of 1868, to recruit the forces of the army and navy in 1869.

ITALY.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Cairoli introduced a bill granting Italian citizenship to Italians seeking to register themselves in any municipality of the kingdom after emigration from Italian countries not united to the Kingdom of Italy. The Ministry accepted a proposal that when the bill came on for discussion they should submit measures to complete its liberal object and prevent the danger of its being abused. The Chamber acknowledged the urgency of the discussion.

Prince Humbert and the Princess Margherita have arrived at the royal villa at Monza. They were enthusiastically received by the population.

At Naples a well-known brigand chief, cousin of Manzi, has been sentenced to death. Manzi himself and the remainder of the band were sentenced to penal servitude for life.

Numerous emigrants have been recently despatched from Rome to enrol recruits for the Pontifical army.

A Spanish frigate of 47 guns has arrived at Civita Vecchia, where it remains at the disposal of the Duke of Girgenti.

AUSTRIA.

The *Official Gazette* publishes a *communiqué* relative to the alleged formation of Polish insurgent bands announced from Gumbinnen, stating that, according to careful investigations recently made as to the state of affairs, the news in question has no foundation in fact. The same journal attributes this hoax (which was well planned and not without an object) to unimportant Russian newspapers, which, it says, are spreading alarming rumours on the state of affairs in Galicia, and are aided in their manoeuvres by the severe measures ordered by the Russian Government in reference to travellers from Galicia.

The Croatian deputation has recognised the union of Hungary and Croatia into one State.

GREECE.

The reserve of the Greek army has been called to arms. The deputies elected by the insurgent Cretans to the Greek Chamber have been requested to leave, but have declined. Two have been sent away. The Turkish Minister declared that if the deputies were received he would demand his passports. France, Austria, and England have protested against their admission, and the plan has been abandoned.

AMERICA.

We learn by cable telegram from Washington that General Grant has accepted his nomination for the Presidency, and Mr. Colfax his nomination for the Vice-Presidency, by the Chicago Republican Convention. Also that the appointment of General Schofield as Secretary of War made by the President during the impeachment proceedings, had been confirmed by the Senate.

The Chicago Republican Convention has adopted resolutions in favour of the guarantee of impartial suffrage by Congress to all loyal men in the lately rebellious States, and for the settlement of the question of suffrage in the loyal States by the people of those States; also in favour of the equalisation of taxation and the encouragement of immigration, the abatement of official corruption, and the earliest removal of political disabilities from late rebels consistent with the public safety; for the payment of the national debt in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law under which it was contracted, denouncing total or partial repudiation; denouncing the course of President Johnson, and endorsing his impeachment; declaring sympathy with all peoples struggling for their rights; favouring the protection of the rights of naturalised citizens; and resistance at all hazards to the doctrine of Great Britain and other countries denying the right of expatriation.

In response to a serenade and an address from Mr. Boutwell, member of Congress, General Grant made a brief speech, stating that he would undertake to discharge with honesty and fidelity the duties

of any position to which he was called by the will of the people.

The nomination of General Grant as President, and Mr. Schuyler Colfax as Vice-President, has been enthusiastically received by the Republicans throughout the country.

We now learn that the vote on the eleventh article of impeachment, about the effect of which there was so much discussion in this country, was regarded in the United States as decisive. On the 16th of May (says the American correspondent of the *Times*) the impeachers permitted a vote to be taken on the 11th Impeachment Article, the only one on which they hoped to secure conviction, and it resulted in thirty-five to nineteen. The sick senators were all brought into the Senate Chamber, but the impeachers being unable to muster two-thirds of the Court on the vote, the President was acquitted. Vice-President Wade voted "Guilty," but seven other Republican Senators voted "Not guilty," and with the Democrats carried the day. The White House was, of course, the scene of the heartiest rejoicings, the President being called upon by his Cabinet and host of friends, and showing much pleasure at their congratulations. He made no public speech, though the incitement to do so was strong. He had had too good a lesson in the effects of that kind of thing to indulge in it in a critical time like the present.

The nineteen votes for the acquittal of President Johnson on the 11th article of impeachment comprised all the Democratic senators, the Conservative senators, Messrs. Doolittle and Dixon, and the Republican senators, Fessenden, Fowler, Turnbull, Ross, Grimes, and Van Winkle.

The defeat of the impeachers upon the 11th article is generally attributed to the vote of Senator Ross, of Kansas, who, although considered doubtful by many, was generally claimed to be in favour of conviction. He had kept his own counsel up to the last hour, and his vote in connection with that of Senator Van Winkle, who had been considered more "doubtful," turned the scale and left the impeachers one vote short of the two-thirds requisite for conviction. Mr. Ross was in consequence bitterly denounced by the Radical press.

The press generally, with a few violent exceptions, state that the assaults upon Senators Fessenden, Grimes, Trumbull, and Henderson, had been most unwarrantable; and prominent Radical journals admitted that the abuse of these senators, and the previous attempts to coerce them, had destroyed the moral effect of impeachment, even should Mr. Johnson yet be convicted.

Fenianism still exists in Canada. Intelligence from Toronto, dated May 4th, announces the suppression of the newspaper called the *Irish Canadian*. Patrick Boyle, the editor, and president of the Hibernian Society, John Nolan, the secretary, and other leading members of the society, have been arrested on a charge of Fenianism. The papers and books of the society have been seized, and are said to prove that the members are deeply implicated in the conspiracy. Numerous arrests are expected in the western towns. The missing links of evidence respecting the murder of Mr. D'Arcy M'Gee are now supplied, and the case is completed.

It is reported that the Canadian authorities, apprehending a Fenian raid, had ordered the militia to be in readiness.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Saxon Parliament have voted the abolition of capital punishment.

The weather has been so hot in Paris that several persons have died in consequence.

The *Opinions* of Florence states that the French troops will be withdrawn from Rome before the Ecumenical Council.

It is stated that an arrangement has been come to between France, England, and Italy with respect to the difficulty with Tunis, and that the affair will be settled.

Prince Napoleon started on his long-talked-of journey yesterday. He arrived at Baden Baden in the course of the day, where he was received by the Grand Duke and Duchess, and proceeded on Monday morning to Stuttgart.

It is announced that the Viceroy of Egypt and his suite embarked at Alexandria on Saturday night, and left on Sunday morning for Constantinople and Broussa. During the absence of his Highness Sherif Pacha has been appointed regent.

A telegram from Bombay of the 26th ult. says that intelligence has been received there of a great battle between the Russians and Bokharians, in which the former were victorious. The Emir of Bokhara was killed. The Russians are said to have taken possession of Bokhara.

The official records of the New York Inebriate Asylum show that since its establishment, about ten years ago, there have been among the applicants for admission 39 clergymen, 8 judges, 340 merchants, 226 physicians, 240 gentlemen, and 100 "rich men's daughters."

The Emperor and Empress of Russia will go this year to the waters of Kissingen, and will there have an interview with the King of Bavaria. It is asserted that King Louis II. is about to be affianced to the Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrina, daughter of the Emperor and Empress of Russia.

The French Emperor's answer to a deputation which waited on him after the Paris Exhibition is reported by Pasteur Fisch thus:—"Gentlemen, I will that in this empire every religious community may have the perfect liberty to act according to its own principles for the attack of religious indifference, which is, in my opinion, the greatest of all evils." (Applause.)

THE HEALTH OF THE POPE.—Persons around the Pope affirm that he becomes more and more troubled in reference to the term of twenty-five years, which, according to the Roman superstition, is the extreme limit of a Pontifical reign, and he even expresses fears whether he will complete the period. He has been particularly uneasy during the last few days. At the festival of the ascension he looked ill and dejected, and his voice was very weak.—*Correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette.*

A PRINCESS REPRESENTED AS A MURDERESS.—The Princess de Furstenberg, a lady highly respected at Vienna, has just laid a complaint before the police of Berlin, in consequence of the misuse made of her portrait by a photographer of that capital. Wishing to publish a likeness of the Canoness Julie Ebergényi, recently convicted of murder, he charged a colleague at Vienna to procure him one. The latter not being able to succeed, simply purchased a carte-de-visite of the Princess de Furstenberg, which having been copied, has been sold by thousands as the portrait of the poisoner. What renders the fact still more unpleasant is that the pictures reproduced in the illustrated newspapers are excellent resemblances of the princess.

AMERICAN MARRIAGES.—An impatient couple in Chesterfield county, Va., were married in a buggy not long ago. The affianced bride made a journey to Richmond to select the wedding trousseau. She was met by her lover with a top buggy to carry her home. On the road they met the pastor of their church, and as the licence had already been obtained, the impatient bridegroom insisted upon the ceremony being performed at once, the preacher on horseback and they in the carriage—with a farmer and his wife, who happened to be present, as witnesses. The Western papers state that a young couple rode into Otterville, Mo., a few days since, in pursuit of a parson to marry them. Learning that he was at a store in the public square, they rode up in front of the store, and calling him out, told them their errand, and he, without requiring them to dismount, married them as they sat, to the great amusement of a crowd of spectators who had gathered to witness the ceremony.

THE POPE'S BODYGUARD OF ZOUAVES is a most astonishing amalgam of nationalities, and if the various members of it had joined in any representative capacity, the throne of his Holiness would be unassailable by mortal arms. It numbers in all 4,593 members, of whom there are, according to the correspondent of a contemporary, 1,910 Dutchmen, 1,301 French, 686 Belgians, 157 Romans and Pontifical subjects, 135 Canadians, 101 Irishmen, 87 Prussians, 50 Englishmen, 32 Spaniards, 22 Germans, 19 Swiss, 14 Americans, 14 Neapolitans, 12 Moldenese, 12 Poles, 10 Scotchmen, 6 Tuscan, 6 Portuguese, 3 Maltese, 2 Russians, and a South Sea Islander, an Indian, an African, a Peruvian, a Mexican, and a Circassian. It is not strange that such a corps should be formidable to its enemies; but the wonder is, how it is preserved from the danger of spontaneous combustion.

THE POPE'S EVIL EYE.—A letter from Rome says:—"The Holy Father has ordered the exile of Madame Barbosi-Prattocchi. This lady, well known for her beauty and gallantries twenty years ago, belongs to the Liberal party. Sharing in the stupid superstition of some people who consider Pious IX. as a person who casts an 'evil eye,' she had made use of the gesture—common in Italy as a supposed protection from the malevolent influence—which is called *far la corna*, at the moment his Holiness was walking past. The Holy Father saw the movement, and gave orders that Madame Barbosi should leave at once. An agent of the police, M. Ciampi, a great admirer of the lady, notwithstanding her age, nearly fifty, married her directly to save her from exile. There is every probability, however, that the expedient will not be successful."—*Galignani.*

ABYSSINIAN GRATITUDE.—The following is the extract from a letter of an officer in Abyssinia:—"I must tell you that after the fight at Erogie I wandered over the field, and, among others, saw a man wounded, under a bush. I went to him and gave him some water, and brought a stretcher up to have him taken to the hospital. The poor wretch asked me not to cut his throat, and on my making signs that I would take care of him he pointed to a bush about five yards off. I looked and saw a silver armet. He signed to me to keep it; I did so, and showed it to Mr. S. afterwards, who told me the man gave it me as a token of submission, and that the giver was a great chief, and had killed five men in single combat, of which this armet was a token. I found out afterwards from the prisoners that this chief was always good to the captives. He sent me a message the other day to say he blessed me and prayed God for me for having saved his life, and was very sorry he could not express his gratitude in my language."

THE POLES AT WARSAW.—A letter from Warsaw says that the other evening, just as the French company at the Grand Theatre were about to commence, a general in full uniform appeared on the stage and read a telegram in the Russian language, announcing the birth of a new Grand Duke. The theatre being full of Russian officers, great enthusiasm was exhibited, the National Anthem was called for and sung. At last some Polish ladies in a box opposite Count de Berg, being fatigued, thought they might sit down. The husband of one of them, well known to suffer from weakness in the legs, also did the same. The governor saw the movement, and, getting in a violent passion, sent the police to expel the party from the theatre. The next day the Count summoned the husbands and soundly rated them. The one already alluded to pleaded his infirmity, and

added that he did not know what was being sung, as he was not acquainted with Russian. The General exclaimed that he should start on the instant for one of his (the gentleman's) estates in Russia, and stop there until he had learned the language. And he was obliged to go.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.—It appears that the Empress has long been in the habit of devoting one day of the week to visiting, as it were in disguise, any poor families whose cases, previously investigated, may have been specially recommended to her. In these visits she had been accompanied by three young ladies belonging to her private circle of friends. One of these usually gave the sum of money appropriated for the relief of the case in the name of the Empress, stating that they had been sent by her. It appears, however, that the Emperor, fearing, it is said, to expose her Majesty to over-fatigue, has appointed two competent persons to fulfil this mission of mercy. The fact of one of the four visiting ladies being her Majesty once accidentally revealed, naturally her mission, which led her into crowded lanes and remote courts, became impossible. The secret has been kept for a lengthened period.—The Empress is going to pay a visit to Iceland and not to Ireland, as the telegraph announced last week.

A STORM IN CHURCH TIME.—Illinois papers have accounts of great devastation, with loss of life, occasioned by a recent storm. In Chicago darkness fell upon the city with such mysterious swiftness as to cause indescribable awe; and the mist and startling chilliness led the people to infer that a tornado was whirling over the city. In other parts of the State it descended and proved very destructive. At Shanghai service was proceeding in the Second Advent Church, a new building completed last autumn. The Rev. G. W. Hurd ascended the pulpit, and his discourse was not interrupted until it was nearly through, when the evidences of the coming disaster began to be apparent. First it was perfectly still, and then a noise was heard in the distance as of the roaring of a mighty cataract. The windows began to shake, and some one called out from his seat, "Mr. Hurd, a bad storm is coming up." The minister answered, "Never mind the storm—there is a day coming when there will be a storm compared with which this will be nothing. I will be through soon." Just then the hail and wind commenced breaking in the window lights, and in almost an instant the windows of the church, sash and all, were torn out. The only two persons who succeeded in getting out were George Vern and Harrison Vixen, who were instantly killed. The building reeled like a drunken man, but none could get out. Wives clung to their husbands, children to their parents, brothers and sisters to each other, and despair was depicted upon every countenance. Suddenly the crash came, and with a deafening sound, mingled with the shrieks of the pent-up people; timbers, scantling and all, came down with a sudden crash upon the devoted heads of the congregation, men, women, and children. Some had skulls broken, others arms, others received internal injuries from which they can never recover. Nearly all were more or less injured.

NEW ZEALAND AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.—The news that Prince Alfred was not to visit New Zealand occasioned great disappointment there, and the intelligence of his attempted assassination provoked everywhere an outburst of loyal indignation. At Hokitika, the capital of Westland, on the west coast of the Middle Island, there had previously been some sympathy manifested for the Manchester murderers, and a cross was erected in their honour in the Roman Catholic Cemetery. A letter from that place says:—

When the news reached Hokitika that O'Farrell's purpose was providentially frustrated, and that the Duke was yet alive, the gladness of the loyal population of Hokitika knew no bounds. Meetings, bonfires, processions, blue ribbons, anthems—the people went mad with joy. But there was method in their madness. The Celtic cross still stood in the Roman Catholic cemetery in defiance of authority. The Town Council debated, but had the courage to do what was right by ordering its removal. The agent of the General Government was appealed to by the Fenians to interfere and prevent it, as otherwise there would be a bloody riot. He refused, and the cross was removed. The riot was still threatening, and, backed by the fear of it, Father Larkins applied to the Government agent for permission to reinstate the cross. Permission was refused. The determination to deal firmly had its result. The local authorities were supported by the swearing in of no less than 1,200 special constables during that and the two following days, and the ringleaders of the Fenians were arrested. On the 27th Father Larkins was the first whom the police troubled. This notorious priest is part owner and part editor of the *Hokitika Celt*, the seditious inculcations of which have caused much of the present mischief. His co-partner and editor, Manning, was also arrested. He appears to be an old offender, having fifteen years ago been the writer of sundry inflammatory articles in the *Ballarat Times*, materially helping to bring about the Ballarat (Victoria) riots, and was at that time tried for high treason, but was unfortunately acquitted. Several others were arrested in the course of the day, and have since been committed for trial, the town during the examination being guarded night and day by the specials. The Government and the Romish Bishop at Wellington were not inactive. The latter recalled Father M'Donogh, denounced Father Larkins, and poured what oil he could on the waters which those reverend gentlemen had with so much painstaking been the means of troubling. The spirit of loyalty which has been aroused throughout the colony, and the satisfaction which the decided steps taken to put a stop to the flaunting Fenianism on the West Coast have occasioned, have together had a very decided effect in creating the feeling that law and order will continue to be everywhere maintained without resorting to any extreme measures.]

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

The following is a telegram from Attagerat, dated May 22nd:—"Sir Robert Napier and the rear column arrived here to-day, and will reach Senafé on the 24th inst. The widow of King Theodore died of consumption in the British camp on May 15. Five regiments and two batteries have already embarked at Zoulla."

On the 1st of June Colonel Milward arrived at Suez with despatches and presents for the Queen from the army. The captives and a portion of the troops were expected there in a few days.

Letters from the expedition to the 8th of May have come to hand. The rearguard had retraversed more than a third of the distance which lies between Magdala and our ships. The army was moving, in two brigades, two days apart. The pioneers were in front as an advanced guard, and the elephants, which give trouble when many other animals are on the road, marched in a separate column, and kept between the two main bodies. The sky was daily clouded, and rain fell in large quantities, but without seriously impeding the march. About a dozen Hindustani followers, chiefly muleteers, had been waylaid and killed by the inhabitants, and some twenty natives had been shot by our men. The latter were chiefly Abyssinians, as the Gallas, the most murderous of robbers, displayed superior caution. The troops, who were in good health, were receiving not only full rations, but luxuries, such as sugar and vegetables, at an increased rate. The commissariat, having made provision for a more prolonged campaign, were obliged not only to issue items usually reserved for Europeans to the Hindustani followers, but to leave behind or destroy large quantities of the heavier articles. We find it mentioned that amongst the baggage on its way are ninety mule-loads of books, collected by Theodore from the numerous churches which he ransacked. The latest news from Zoula states that the road through the pass had been rendered unfit for carts by a sudden rush of water, the greatest damage having been received between Rarey Guddy and Sooroo. The weather there was so hot that the sappers could only work at their task of repair for three or four hours a day. With regard to the present political condition of Abyssinia, it is said:—

The Gallas have now entire possession of all the country in the Magdala side of the Bashilo, and these people will probably before long also occupy the Talanta plateau, from which it may be remembered Theodore principally supplied Magdala. Gobasaye appears to have enough to occupy his attention at present with the country towards Debra Tabor. Kassal of Tigre, in spite of his promise to Sir Robert Napier three months ago, appears to have taken advantage of our presence to prosecute his threatened excursion against Walda Yazoo, though not in person. Kassal remains in Tigre, and Yazoo has absconded to the country about Ashangi, while the brothers of these two worthies are carrying on rather desultory operations near Attala, in the vicinity of Walda Yazoo's stronghold, which the army passed in March last. It is reported that the Tigre chief has retired; if so, it is more probably the result of our return than of any serious defeat he has received, as their mode of fighting appears to be more a system of mutual observation from opposite heights, while their followers ravage the country, than any stronger measures.

A blue book, issued on Saturday, relating to the Abyssinian expedition, brings down the official correspondence to the despatch of telegrams acknowledging the announcement of the fall of Magdala. The Queen, on receipt of the news, sent her hearty congratulations and thanks to Sir Robert Napier and his gallant force for their brilliant success. Sir S. Northcote, in forwarding the telegram, assured Sir Robert that from first to last all had been done well.

The *Patrie* supplements the accounts we have already received, by an interesting letter from Count R. de Bisson respecting the last moments of King Theodore. The writer, who was a friend of the King, says that Theodore deceived himself as to the route the British forces would take, and only listened to his spies when doubt was no longer possible, and when it was too late. He left his cavalry at Amarrha and tried to defend the defiles with his infantry, but there was no longer time, and according to Count Bisson, his generals, discouraged and gorged with gold, abandoned their chief in his extremity. Count Bisson, however, admits that the English soldiers not only displayed great bravery and intrepidity during the assault, but were humane towards the prisoners and wounded. With regard to the death of Theodore, Count Bisson says he did not shoot himself. In a fit of fury, when resistance became hopeless, he ordered the extermination of the captives, forgetting that they had been sent into the English camp, and then called upon two of his bodyguard to shoot him. One of them obeyed, and shot the Emperor through the head. Theodore had previously made a will, bequeathing his throne to his son, and beseeching him to be the friend of the victors, as they knew how to protect their friends and were invincible.

THE IRISH PRESS PRISONERS.—Mr. Sullivan, proprietor of the *Nation* newspaper, was released from Richmond Bridewell on Monday afternoon, on entering into his own recognisances and giving two sureties for his future good behaviour. His sureties were two members of the Dublin Corporation. Mr. Sullivan's original sentence would not have expired until August next. Mr. Pigott, of the *Irishman*, who is still in confinement, will be released on giving the same bail.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

NORWICH.—A meeting of the advanced Liberals of Norwich was held on Wednesday evening—Mr. A. F. M. Morgan in the chair—at which a lengthened resolution was passed unanimously on the future policy of the Norwich Electoral Organisation. The annexed extract will show the nature of the resolution:—"That this organisation, speaking the sentiments of several thousands of the electoral body, appeals to the citizens at large, and particularly to the Liberal electors, to choose their own candidate freely and openly, and to exercise this prerogative for themselves. In so doing this organisation furnishes the best and only answer to charges of dictation, and disappoints effectually party jealousies as well as personal ambitions. To accomplish this end, the ward committees are requested to divide the city into 100 districts, containing each, as nearly as can be estimated, about 100 electors, and to elicit the expression of the popular desire for a free and open preliminary vote on the question who are to be the Liberal candidates at the forthcoming election." It was also resolved that a guarantee fund should be raised to carry the popular candidates to the poll without personal expense. Mr. J. H. Tillett, Mr. J. Copeman, Mr. J. D. Smith, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting. In the event of the disfranchisement of Theford, Mr. J. H. Harvey, now one of the sitting members for that borough, will be left without a seat, and a requisition is in course of signature inviting the hon. gentleman to offer himself as a Conservative candidate for Norwich, in conjunction with the Hon. F. Walpole, who unsuccessfully contested Lynn in July, 1865.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE.—The Conservatives have invited Mr. E. A. Cross, banker, formerly of Warrington, deputy-chairman of the Lancashire Quarter Sessions, who formerly represented Preston, to stand for South Lancashire, in opposition to Mr. Gladstone.

BRADFORD.—Mr. M. W. Thompson, M.P., has issued an address to the "Electors and Coming Electors of Bradford," deprecating as premature, "as an election may not take place for six months or more," the step just taken by a "section of Liberal electors in the borough," in adopting a requisition to invite Mr. Miall to become a candidate; throwing himself upon the candid judgment and good feeling of the constituency, and pledging himself at the proper time, if his Parliamentary conduct be approved, to contest his seat against all comers. The *Bradford Review* thinks the Liberal electors know their own business without Mr. Thompson's advice, and with regard to the proposed requisition, says:—"We have the firmest conviction the result will show that a very large majority of the householders of Bradford are decidedly in favour of Mr. Miall's candidature. Be this as it may, however, we do not see that any other course was open to the Electoral Association. Mr. Miall's name must be submitted to the new electors, and their judgment ascertained in some satisfactory manner. With the strong feeling that exists in favour of Mr. Miall among all classes of the electors, some course of this kind was inevitable; it could not have been avoided. If this had not been done, we should have had a serious division in the Liberal body."

CARDIGANSHIRE.—It has been determined, at the next election, to bring forward Mr. Edmund Vaughan in opposition to Sir Thomas Lloyd, Bart., the present Liberal member. Mr. Vaughan, who is a nephew of Lord Lisburne, who owns large property in the county, is a Liberal-Conservative, but appears to be rather Conservative than Liberal, inasmuch as he is for maintaining the Irish Church, subject to certain modifications in its constitution; on other points he will give an independent support to a Conservative Government.

BUCKS.—**OPPOSITION TO MR. DISRAELI.**—Mr. Nathaniel Grace Lambert, of Denham Court, has issued an address to the electors of Buckinghamshire, in which he announces his intention of becoming a candidate for the representation of the county at the next general election. He says that the question of the Irish Church being one of prominent interest to the public mind, he has no hesitation in saying that he would cordially support the measures necessary for carrying out the spirit of the resolutions recently adopted by the House of Commons on the motion of Mr. Gladstone. He would support any well-devised measure having for its object the general and compulsory education of the people. He states that he is a sincere member of the Church of England, but he holds it to be consistent with the principles of that Church to regard with the utmost toleration the views of those who differ from her doctrines. With that view he would resist the imposition of Church-rates upon Dissenters.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Robertson Gladstone (brother of the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer) and Mr. W. Rathbone are named as the Liberal candidates for Liverpool at the next general election.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE.—This election took place on Friday, when the Hon. Mr. Lyttelton was returned by a majority of 259. The numbers at the close of the poll were:—

Lyttelton (Liberal) 2,688

Laslett (Conservative) 2,429

In the evening Mr. W. H. Gladstone, Lord Cavendish, and Mr. Lyttelton addressed the constituents. The declaration of the poll was made on Monday, when both candidates delivered short speeches. Mr. Laslett has issued an address to the electors, in which, having referred to his defeat, he says:—

"Individually I care not for the result; but as an index of what is looming in the distance, I cannot but lament that such tenets as are professed by Mr. Gladstone should be tolerated by so intelligent a set of men as I have had the honour of meeting in the course of my canvass. Would that the cause which I espoused, and on account of which alone I consented to be a candidate, had been represented by a man more able than I have been to convince you of the impending dangers." An elector of Dudley observing a placard issued by the Conservative party in the town relative to the election, stating that Sir C. O'Loughlin was an ardent supporter of Mr. Gladstone, and further, that Mr. Rearden was also a supporter of that gentleman, wrote to the leader of the Opposition upon the subject. He stated in his letter that the hon. baronet's motion relative to the oaths and Mr. Rearden's proposition were being used against Mr. Lyttelton and Mr. Gladstone. The latter forwarded the following letter in reply:—

1, Carlton House-terrace, S. W., May 26.
Sir,—I have received your communication of yesterday. With respect to the placard—1. Sir C. O'Loughlin made his proposal without my knowledge or approval. 2. He does not propose to alter the Coronation Oath at all, but a declaration quite independent of it, which the law now requires no one to take except the sovereign. 3. The security for the religion of the Queen by law is the provision that she shall be a communicant of the Church of England, and shall not marry a member of the Church of Rome. 4. Mr. Rearden is no supporter of mine or of the Liberal party. As far as I know he has voted against us upon the most interesting and important questions except that of the Irish Church. 5. All Mr. Lyttelton's friends should make it known that Mr. Lalett is to support this Government. Now, this Government proclaimed ten weeks ago that they were friendly to religious equality in Ireland, provided it was brought about by endowing the other Churches, including the Roman, in Ireland, and not by endowing the Protestant Church; and by way of earnest they proposed at once to create a Roman Catholic University, and pay its expenses out of the taxes of the country; whereas we say take away the Establishment that now exists, and make no more in Ireland.—Yours faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

NORTH RIDING.—It is stated that the Conservatives intend to try to secure both seats for the North Riding. The Liberals, however, are on the alert to promote the return of Mr. Milbank. Whitby intends to start Mr. H. S. Thompson, the late member (chairman of the North-Eastern Railway); Mr. Bagnall, the present member, will retire, and Mr. Beckett Denison, of Leeds, is spoken of as the Conservative candidate. Malton is promised the novelty of a contest, the son of a neighbouring peer being named as a likely Conservative candidate.

BERKSHIRE.—Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, who was ejected at the last election, again comes forward as a candidate for this county. It need hardly be said that Berkshire, returning three members, is one of the counties to which the minorities principle applies. Mr. Walter's return, therefore, is now almost certain. In the address which he has issued, he contents himself for the present with referring to those points to which public attention is chiefly directed at the present moment—the Irish Church, and the removal of religious disabilities.

With regard to the former of these questions, I hold, with the majority of the Liberal party, that the time has gone by for effecting any of those compromises with the Roman Catholic body which the best and the wisest English statesmen of this country, from Pitt to Russell, have laboured in vain to promote, and that a grievance, unparalleled in the history of any other country, must no longer be permitted to remain a perpetual bone of contention between the two countries. Whatever other sources of discontent or disaffection may remain in Ireland, we shall never deal with them successfully till we have removed the great stumbling-block that lies at the threshold of every Irish question. With respect to religious disabilities, I must say that, without being a convert to what is called "secular education," I am in favour of the removal of all religious tests which have the effect of limiting the benefits of public education to members of a particular creed. I will only add, in conclusion, that a brief period of retirement from the duties of public life is sometimes the best preparation for renewed application to them, and that, should I again be honoured with your confidence, I shall do my best to deserve it.

ESSEX (NORTH-EAST).—The Conservatives have resolved to invite Mr. C. Du Cane, one of the present sitting members for North Essex, and Mr. J. Round, of Essex, to stand for the North-eastern division, on the dissolution. For the North-west they intend to propose Mr. Selwyn Ibbetson, M.P. for South Essex. There is a division as to the second candidate, one section preferring Colonel Brise, and another Lord E. Cecil, one of the M.P.'s for South Essex.

WILTS (NORTH).—Sir George Jenkinson, who it will be remembered contested North Wilts unsuccessfully in 1865, has just issued an address to the electors of that county, offering his services again at the approaching dissolution on independent Conservative principles.

AVONLON.—There are four candidates already in the field. Mr. Rearden, the present sitting member; Sir John Ennis, Bart.; and Mr. Sullivan, of the Nation, will come forward on Liberal principles, and Mr. Robert Bayley, a defender of Church and State.

NORTH YORKSHIRE.—It is stated that the Conservatives intend to try to secure both seats for the North Riding. The Liberals, however, are on the alert to secure the re-election of Mr. Milbank.

DUBLIN CITY.—Sir Arthur Guinness, the son of the late Sir Benjamin L. Guinness, was on Monday

elected member for Dublin in the place of his deceased father. There was no opposition.

NEW ROSS.—The electors of New Ross held a meeting on Thursday. Colonel Tottenham, who has recently voted against the Liberal party, met them and stated his views on the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church. His statement was not favourably received, and the meeting determined to select some other candidate who will support Mr. Gladstone on this question.

DROGHEDA.—It is stated that Mr. Brodigan, who contested Drogheda at the last election, will come forward in the Liberal interest, in opposition to Mr. Whitworth, M.P.

STOCKTON.—The Conservatives of the new Parliamentary borough of Stockton-on-Tees have invited Lord Ernest Vane Tempest to come forward as a candidate for its representation, in opposition to Mr. Joseph Dodds, who has been selected by the Liberals. It is not yet known whether his lordship will accede to the request.

DUNDEE.—Mr. George Armistead, a Dundee merchant, has issued an address announcing that he will offer himself as a candidate at the next election. He professes extreme Liberal views.

PRESTON.—There are already two Liberals in the field in this town, Mr. German and Mr. Leese; but no move has been made by the Conservatives. Mr. James German on Tuesday issued his address, dated from the Reform Club, to the "present and future electors."

OXFORD.—The Liberals are bringing forward Mr. William Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., in place of Mr. Neate, who retires at the dissolution. It is said that the Conservatives will bring forward a candidate.

WEST CUMBERLAND.—The Hon. Percy Wyndham and Captain Lowther, both Conservatives, will scarcely be opposed. The influence of Lord Leconfield and the Earl of Lonsdale is powerful in this division.

BLACKBURN.—Mr. John Morley, the well-known political writer, intends to offer himself for the representation of Blackburn in the Liberal interest. The sitting members, Messrs. Hornby and Feilden, are Conservatives.

NOTTINGHAM.—Lord Amberley, it is said, does not intend to stand again for Nottingham. A powerful combination of employers and others there is formed to re-elect Mr. Motley, as an act of compensation for the loss and mortification caused to him by the deprivation of his seat on petition. Sir Robert Clifton has also announced his resolution to stand. Should Mr. Morley decline, Sir R. Clifton and Mr. Osborne will probably be returned.

WAKEFIELD.—Mr. Charlesworth will, it is said, be a candidate for this borough in the Conservative interest at the general election. The sitting member is Mr. W. H. Leatham, a Liberal, with whom Mr. Charlesworth contested the representation in 1859.

CARLISLE.—The Conservative member, Mr. W. N. Hodgson, will be opposed by Sir Wilfred Lawson, who sat for the city from 1859 to 1865.

COCKERMOUTH.—It is rumoured that Mr. Isaac Fletcher, who unsuccessfully contested this borough against Major Green Thompson a week or two ago, will again come forward. Both the sitting members—Lord Mayo and Major Thompson—are Conservatives.

EAST CUMBERLAND.—There is a rumour that Sir R. Vane, of Armthwaite Hall, and Mr. R. C. Musgrave, of Edenhall, will be brought out in opposition to the present Liberal members, the Hon. C. Howard and Mr. W. Marshall.

UNIVERSITY REFORM AND EXTENSION.

The draft of a bill is now in circulation at Oxford for the extension and improvement of the university and colleges therein. The bill in question will be introduced into Parliament, if possible, in the present session by Mr. Coleridge, who has addressed a letter to the Dean of Christ Church, expressing his desire before bringing in the bill to ascertain the opinion of the resident members of the university as to its proposed provisions. With this view a meeting of those favourable to the objects of the bill will be held, for the consideration of its provisions, at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford, May 30, at two o'clock, when members of congregation, members of the governing bodies of colleges, and others connected with university or college instruction or administration, are invited to attend. The preamble of the bill states that "it is expedient that the benefits of the University of Oxford should be more widely extended and rendered more freely accessible; and that the said university and the colleges therein should be empowered to make better application of their respective revenues to the purpose of learning and education; and that legal restrictions at present interfering with the self government, efficiency, and usefulness of the said university and colleges should be removed." After the interpretation of terms the bill deals with the extension of the university and colleges, and proposes that persons may be matriculated and become full members of the university without being members of any college or hall, &c.; but in case the measure on the subject of extension now before congregation becomes the law of the university, clause 3 to 6 thereon are to be expunged. Clause 7 proposes to do away with the ancient house of congregation as at present constituted, but to create a fresh body coming under the same denomination. Clause 9 will transfer to the new congregation the functions of convocation, except as regards the right of electing the chancellor, of returning burgesses to Parliament, and of confer-

ring honorary degrees. The remaining clauses treat of—(10). The power of the university to regulate its own procedure. (11). Proceedings in the English tongue. (12). Executive commissioners, and appointment thereof. (13). Duration of powers. (14). Vacancies. (15). Production of documents. (16). Power to colleges to frame statutes for certain purposes. (17). Schemes to be laid before commissioners. (18). On neglect of college commissioners to frame schemes. (19). Laying before colleges schemes framed by commissioners. (20). University balance sheet. (21). Schemes objected to, to be laid before Parliament, and (22). The Queen in council. (23). Power to colleges, &c., to petition her Majesty against approbation thereof, &c. &c. (25). Elections to emoluments being suspended by commissioners. (26). Power to sever benefices from headships. (27). Transfer of judicial functions of visitors. (28). Hearing by counsel. (29). Statutes of colleges to be subject to repeal, &c. (30). Christchurch college. (31). Interpretation of powers of governing bodies of colleges. (32). Acquirer of vested interests. The most sweeping part of this bill appears to be the deprivation of convocation of the right which it has hitherto enjoyed of non-placeting important measures brought forward by a congregation.

THE STOCKWELL ORPHANAGE.

The first stones of the two testimonial houses, the cost of which has been supplied by the Baptist Churches as a token of regard for the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, as additions to the above homes, were on Monday laid at the Orphanage—one by A. B. Goodall, Esq., and the other by the Rev. John Aldis, of Reading. The avenue to the grounds was decorated by a large number of flags and banners and evergreen festoons, with appropriate mottoes; and the ground, on which about 5,000 friends assembled, was also adorned with numerous banners.

The proceedings commenced at three o'clock with a crowded meeting in the large hall, which is already roofed in, on which occasion the Rev. Thos. Binney presided. At this preliminary meeting the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon gave a brief summary of the progress of the work, by which it appeared that he had already received towards this large and laudable undertaking donations amounting, up to May 12, to the magnificent sum of 29,775*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* Towards this one lady (Mrs. Hillyard), subscribed 20,000*l.*, and an unknown friend 2,000*l.* It is contemplated to erect at once five more houses, in addition to the six nearly completed, and in the course of a short time three others, making a total of fourteen, to accommodate 250 boys. The afternoon meeting was also briefly addressed by the Rev. J. T. Wigner, Dr. Raleigh, G. Gould, of Norwich, J. Raven (Ipswich), W. Landella, and Dr. Angus. After the stones of the two testimonial houses were laid, the memorial stones of the schools and dining-hall was then laid by Thomas Olney, Esq., the senior deacon of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The National Anthem was then sung, accompanied by the police band, who were in attendance, and who afterwards played in excellent style the Hallelujah Chorus. The vast assembly then partook of tea in the open grounds, after which the presentation meeting was held, also in the grounds, a large platform being erected. Another hymn having been sung, the chair was taken by the Rev. John Aldis.

The Rev. J. T. Wigner then in a few feeling remarks presented the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon with a very handsome purse, containing 200 new sovereigns and a cheque for 1,000*l.*, which he said was the united testimony of love and esteem of 460 Baptist Churches. There was also presented to him an appropriate address engrossed on vellum.

The Rev. C. H. SPURGEON, in the course of his reply; said it was not often difficult for him to speak, but if ever he did feel a difficulty it was on the present occasion. He wished, however, most heartily to thank every church and every individual, whether their gift had been great or small, for their great testimony of esteem towards him, and also for their generosity in aiding him in that great work which God had entrusted to him; and especially he begged to thank his kind friend Mr. Wigner for the interest he individually had taken in it. He should before long ask his congregation to make two collections towards the new church Mr. Wigner was erecting at New Cross, as a sort of recognition, and he was quite sure they would liberally respond to it. Something had been said in the course of the day about the form the testimonial had taken. It could not have taken a better one. If they made a testimonial to a soldier, it was generally a sword that he might use in his work; and he as a soldier engaged in his work would use the money they had now given him, which was the best possible sword to do still more of that particular kind of work in which he was engaged. There was no earthly requirement that he himself personally needed. God had blessed him with an abundance of everything that wealth could furnish for his own necessities, and, therefore, he was not hungry after more earthly goods for himself, but he did crave them for the work of the Lord. He had been reminded that day of times gone by, when his room was better esteemed than his company; but he was glad that so many who were once suspicious of him had now rallied round him as friends. A little time ago he was talking to a brother who honestly told him the reasons why he used to dislike him. He said he was afraid, for one reason, that he was going to start a new denomination, and that, in the next place, he

was going to eat the vitals out of all of them. Well, he had not done either, and had no intention of doing so. He was glad to say, however, that he had now around him a body of men that he was proud of. So far from wishing to start a new denomination, he was a member of the Baptist Church because he looked upon it as the old Catholic Apostolic Church. He certainly was not born in it, but at an early age he struck out a course for himself, and just as much as it had been necessary before now for men to rise up and strike out forms and ceremonies from other churches, so he hoped that if ever they were eaten up by forms, customs, and routine, God would raise up some one to strike mere routine down. As Paul said he was a Sadducee of the Sadducees, so he might say he was a Baptist of Baptists. He did not, however, wish to be such a great one as to ignore all the rest, but he wished to hold out the right hand of fellowship to all. No man ought to be accused of disrespect to women generally because he loved his own wife best, but he believed there was a great work before them as a denomination, and whilst he hoped they would specially love the work in which they were engaged, yet he would say that too often their fault had been excess of consciousness which had degenerated into bickering. They were now, however, about to engage politically in a great battle, and every time that the battle raged, there was a race of go-betweens swept away. He would repeat again, they had a great work in the future. It would come to a hand-to-hand fight with them and the Roman Catholics. Whatever might be said of the part they were taking in the Irish Church question, it was the Episcopalians who were doing of, and advancing Roman Catholicism in this country. A friend of his wrote to him the other day, stating he was surprised that he, as a Baptist and Nonconformist, was taking the part he was in the Irish question by advocating the disestablishment of the Church. He wondered at the time how long his friend's ears were, and how it was that he failed to see that by the disestablishment the general body of Protestants would be brought face to face with Roman Catholicism, and that Protestantism would be strengthened. But whilst it was their duty to oppose error, they had no right to commit an injustice. If he saw a man knocked down in the street and robbed, he would help him whether he was a Protestant or a Catholic; and as he believed that the Irish Church was an injustice to nine-tenths of the Irish people, so he would relieve them of that injustice; but Martin Luther himself did not love Protestantism and the doctrine of justification by faith more than he did. He hoped, therefore, that as a body they would keep together. They did not know what God had in store for them.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. W. Booth, F. Trestrail, and the Rev. J. Spurgeon.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

By command of the Queen a levee was held on Saturday at St. James's Palace by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on behalf of her Majesty. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, and Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar. The number of presentations was unusually great.

The Queen will hold a review of the Volunteer force in Windsor Park on the 28th instant. There will, no doubt, be a large muster of Volunteers from all parts of England.

Sir R. Murchison has expressed the opinion that the return of Dr. Livingstone may be looked for in August.

The Channel squadron has been ordered to the coast of Ireland for a month's cruise.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone left town on Saturday, on a visit to the Countess Cowper, at Panshanger, Herts.

The Duke of Marlborough is with the Queen at Balmoral Castle.

The Earl of Shrewsbury is stated to be seriously ill in Scotland.

The committee to try the Bristol election petition is to be appointed on Monday, June 15.

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Express*, who is very prolific in rumours, telegraphs:—"It is rumoured that the first opposition to Mr. Gladstone's Church Spoilation Bill in the House of Lords will come from a Liberal, and that its rejection on the second reading will be moved by Earl Grey."

It is stated in an Irish provincial paper, the *Newry Telegraph*, that an influential and numerous deputation from Ireland will, in a few days, wait on the Premier to "urge on him the absolute necessity of the Cabinet adopting a strong Protestant policy." The deputation will be accompanied, it is added, by "a large body of peers and members of the House of Commons."

A LOCK OF THE LATE THEODORE'S HAIR.—A lock of the late King Theodore's hair, cut from his head after death by Captain C. F. James, deputy adjutant-quartermaster-general, was received in Plymouth on Tuesday, and as a matter of curiosity was exhibited in a shop-window. Captain James, when about to start for Abyssinia, jocularly promised a friend at Plymouth that he would bring back a lock of Theodore's hair. On Tuesday the pledge was redeemed, a note accompanying it, in which Captain James said:—"I send you a real lock of King Theodore's hair. I cut it off myself as soon as we found his body in the gateway, and I assure you it is genuine. I little thought when I promised this in fun that it would be fulfilled in reality."

Miscellaneous News.

MESSERS. PETO, BETTS, AND CRAMPTON have received from Mr. Linklater a testimonial which, from the legal representative of their principal creditors, the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, is of no small weight. He declared that the books of the firm had been admirably kept, nor could he find that one scrap of paper of any kind was missing.

THE SEETHING-LANE OUTRAGE.—The two boys charged with a robbery and attempted murder in Seething-lane, were brought up on Monday at the Mansion House for final examination, and committed for trial. It was stated by Mr. Elliott, a surgeon from Guy's Hospital, that Mrs. Nunn, the housekeeper, was still unfit to be brought into court to give evidence, and was not yet out of danger. The prisoners did not appear to be much affected by their position.

THE PREMIER AT A BUCKS INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—On Monday an Industrial Exhibition, promoted by Lady de Rothschild, at Halton, near the family seat in Bucks, was formally opened by the Right Hon. B. Disraeli, who made a very pleasant speech on the occasion, without, of course, the remotest reference to politics, but with some words of kindly greeting and of hearty commendation for, and honest pride in, the doings of his constituents. Distant as the scene was from any railway station or considerable centre of manufacturing industry, there was an assemblage of more than 5,000 persons to welcome the Premier, and to visit the Exhibition.

LORD BROUGHAM'S FUNERAL.—An Edinburgh gentleman travelling in the South of France, in a letter dated "Cannes, May 24," writes:—"This afternoon, at five o'clock, the remains of Henry, Lord Brougham, were conveyed in a plain deal coffin, covered with black cloth and nailed down with plain black nails, without any ornament or superscription, carried in a musty old hearse dragged by two sorry horses, to the public cemetery at Cannes, and pushed into a vault so clumsily that part of the black cloth was torn off the coffin. A clergyman read the customary prayers at the mouth of the vault, and then laid on the coffin two of those common wreaths of immortelles; then a Frenchman stepped forward and read an empty eulogium, the gist of which was that Lord Brougham had been the means of bringing the English to Cannes. A motley collection of odd-looking vehicles followed the hearse, containing Lord Brougham's relatives and friends. There were also some Frenchmen, and the remnant of the English whose avocations do not allow them to leave the place with the fashionable world. When we arrived at the cemetery, we found a crowd of peasantry—men, women, and children. I followed the hearse the whole way; it was a hot and a long walk."—*Scotsman*.

CALCRAFT, THE HANGMAN.—"Themis" writes to the *Daily Telegraph*:—"Sir,—Much has been said to prejudice the public mind against poor Calcrafft, whose only crime is that he is the minister of justice and the dread executor of the rigour of the law. I happen to know the man, as the minister of the church in which he worships, and a more worthy creature does not exist. To stigmatise him as a hardhearted, cruel, low-lived, crawling, crouching, fawning wretch, which some of the papers, in connection with his duty as public executioner, have done, is utterly wide of the fact. He is a good and tender-hearted man, an habitual frequenter of a Church of England place of worship, where his white head and venerable appearance is pleasingly conspicuous, though his identity is not generally known among the congregation. The execution of his duty is no pleasing topic of conversation with him; he takes no delight in gratifying curiosity by enlarging on the dismal scenes in which he takes so necessary a part; he is modest and unassuming. He is by trade a shoemaker, and you might deal with him all your life, and have no more idea that he was the common hangman than that he was the Grand Lama of Thibet. He a very devout attendant upon public worship, and a man of very simple and straightforward mind, fulfilling all the relations of domestic and social life in a kindly and affectionate manner. Calcrafft is no monster, and no one, I am persuaded, will be better pleased than he, that he has no longer to perform his unenviable duty in the face of an excited and oftentimes exasperated mob."

BAND OF HOPE UNION.—The anniversary meetings of this institution were held last week. The first was the annual meeting at Exeter Hall, on Monday evening, when, as is usual, the hall was crowded to overflowing. A choir of 600 Band of Hope children was present, and sang a selection of pieces during the evening. Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, M.P., presided, and amongst those on the platform were the Rev. G. W. M'Cree, Mr. Deputy Assistant-Judge Payne, Rev. R. Berry, Rev. T. Richardson, Rev. Arthur Hall, Dr. Edmond, &c. The Rev. W. M'Cree, the secretary, read the report, which stated that the progress of the Band of Hope Union throughout the year had been gratifying and full of promise, and there was an evident desire on the part of ministers, teachers, schoolmasters, and others to afford increased support, both pecuniary and moral, to the movement. The number of publications sold had been 42,961 pledge cards, 31,899 melody books, 3,750 recitations, 1,008 tune books. The income for the year was 1,233*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* The Chairman, Mr. Judge Payne, Dr. James Edmunds, and others, addressed the meeting. On Wednesday the annual conferences of the Union were held at Exeter Hall. There was a numerous attendance of delegates, both town and country. There were three sittings, presided over respectively by Benjamin Scott, Esq., City Chamberlain, Messrs. William West and Stephen Shirley. Interesting and suggestive papers were read by Mr. W. B. Harvey, of Frome, on "How to retain our elder members"; by Rev.

G. W. M'Cree on "The chief obstacles to the Band of Hope movement, and how to surmount them"; and by Mr. J. B. George on "The importance of union, with especial reference to the Band of Hope movement." The reading of each paper was followed by a discussion, in which numerous friends took part; and at the morning sitting a resolution was unanimously adopted, to be laid before the select committee of the House of Commons now meeting to consider the Public-house Bill, to the effect "that this conference is decidedly of opinion that the entire closing of public-houses on Sunday would greatly promote the health, good conduct, happiness, and moral welfare of the young persons and children, and would rejoice to witness the permanent abolition of the Sunday sale of intoxicating drinks."

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Last evening the adjourned annual meeting of convocation of the University of London was held at Burlington House, Dr. John Storrar in the chair. Mr. W. S. Lean, M.A., moved, and Mr. W. Shaen, M.A., seconded, the following resolution:—"That it be an instruction to the annual committee, either in conjunction with the senate or separately, as may be judged most expedient, to take any steps that they may consider likely to aid in promoting the improvement of secondary education in schools; and especially to prepare, and cause to be presented to both Houses of Parliament, petitions praying for early legislation having such improvement for its object: and that the chairman of convocation be authorised to sign those petitions on behalf of convocation." A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Bagshot, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Moore took part, and eventually the resolution was carried with the addition of these words, "It is the will of convocation that a special committee of nine be chosen to take any steps they may think proper to promote secondary education in schools." Mr. R. P. B. Tassie moved, "That in the opinion of convocation, no person ought to be admitted to any degree unless he has previously studied at a college affiliated to the university." Mr. Lynn seconded the motion, which was opposed by Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Nisbett, Mr. Osler, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Turner, and other members of convocation; and, upon a division, lost by a large majority. Mr. Tassie then moved, "That, in the opinion of convocation, middle-class examinations similar to those of Oxford and Cambridge should be instituted in connection with the University of London: and that it be an instruction to the annual committee to take the subject into consideration." After a long and stormy discussion the motion was withdrawn. An address of congratulation to her Majesty the Queen on the escape of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh from assassination was agreed to, and the house adjourned.

WHIT-MONDAY.—It is probably some years since the Whitsuntide holiday-making was so extensive and so general. The brilliant summer weather, which coming before its time, has rendered the month of May, in 1868, remarkable in meteorological annals, rendered the country so attractive that excursion trains to the seaside, omnibuses, vans, coaches, steam-boats, were all crowded. At the Crystal Palace, there were no fewer than 36,000 visitors, and that may be taken as a sample of the attendance at every other point of attraction in the suburban districts. After such an exodus the streets showed no sensible diminution of their usual crowds, and on Monday all the in-door exhibitions and amusements showed all their usual holiday bustle and patronage. On Monday also the various metropolitan temperance societies, some fifty being represented, met, marched with the bands to Lincoln's-inn-fields, and from thence formed a procession, 5,000 strong, to the drill-grounds, Kennington-lane. The tickets of admission were, for adults 3*d.* each, and children 2*d.*, and by four o'clock about 10,000 persons had entered the grounds, including a large number of children connected with the Bands of Hope. The proceedings of the afternoon were opened by addresses from several of the leading temperance advocates, after which the company dispersed over the grounds, some dancing to the merry tunes of the bands, of which there were seven present, others playing at "kiss in the ring," others engaging in gymnastic and athletic sports, while the large drill-shed, in which a temporary orchestra had been erected, was crowded with an audience listening to an excellent programme of vocal music given by several of the temperance choirs and some performances of handball-ringers. The whole of these amusements were kept up with undiminished spirit until dark. Several platforms were fitted up in different parts of the grounds, from which, at short intervals, temperance addresses were delivered by the Rev. G. Murphy, Messrs. T. A. Smith, Leicester, Bright, Mann, and others. All present seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves. The weather was beautiful, the amusements plentiful and varied, and the numerous refreshment-stands well supplied with the usual temperance drinks. The Whitsuntide festivities were observed on Monday, in the large towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire, with more than usual heartiness. The weather was as favourable as could be desired, and the day was observed as one of general recreation both by young and old. There was the customary assembly of school children associated with the Leeds Sunday School Union, to the number of 8,000, in the space in front of the Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Baines, M.P., and the children connected with the Church schools met in the Parish Church, where they were addressed for the last time on such an occasion by the Vicar, Bishop-designate of Hereford. Subsequently, the children dispersed to their respective schoolrooms, where they partook of tea, followed by various out-door amusements. In Manchester also there were great Sunday-school gatherings.

Literature.

"THE TREES OF OLD ENGLAND."

We like this book a great deal better, partly it may be because it is considerably less ambitious, than Mr. Grindon's former one on "Life: its Nature, Varieties, and Phenomena." There seems to be one reason, moreover, why we should give it precedence over other and larger works.

It becomes part of the office of reviewers, at this time of the year, to direct attention to all books of merit which have any sort of bearing upon holidays. The holidays may be still a long way off, but they begin to be among the pleasures of life, and make sultry days seem cooler or more bearable, by anticipated wafts of the air of the mountains or the sea. As it is the custom of some of our friends to look up their satchels, and other travelling gear, months before these are likely to be wanted, it may be there are some who are noting down the names of a few books, new and old, as their intended companions in August or September. We recommend them to add Mr. Grindon's volume to the list. It is very convenient for packing, being neither heavy nor thick. If you are among trees, it interprets them, and tells you their story. In the absence of trees, it may help to make up for their lack. Without assuming in the reader any acquaintance with botany, a good deal of botanical knowledge is communicated. Science and poetry appear to have lived so long and harmoniously together in the author's mind, that both contribute value and flavour to the book, while neither is ever dragged in, or introduced in a way incongruous with the other. So, too, if a tree is ever turned into a similitude, or used as a parable, the moral is always one which naturally arises. Without professing to supply anything like a complete *catalogue raisonné* of the various constituents of woods and forests, Mr. Grindon has, of course, most to say about "the old familiar faces." He singles out in the following passage on the oak, a property less commonly observed than its majesty, or its durability, or its fortitude in adverse circumstances—its hospitality to wit.

"The oak is not only a tree, it is a garden and a country, for living things innumerable find their homes and security either among the branches or upon some portion of the surface. Birds, insects, epiphytic plants are identified with the natural history of the oak, to the number, probably, of several hundreds; so that to study the inmates of an oak-tree is literally like exploring the streets and squares of a populous town, and taking a census of the occupations of the inhabitants. There is no special or particular bird found only or chiefly amid the foliage, nor are birds ordinarily found in definite kinds of trees now and then, as in the case of the cross-bill and the fir, do we find any direct consociation. For trees are to birds what the ocean is to the nations of earth, free to the visits of all in turn, and witnessing every day new arrivals and new departures. . . . But insects are to the oak a supplement so enormous that were the tree to be blotted out the entomologist would weep. . . . To the casual observer this wonderful insect population is of necessity not obvious. But no one can help noticing the certificate and result of its presence. We have it in the odd productions termed oak apples; also in galls, and in those beautiful yellowish rusty spangles which in autumn crowd the under-surface of the leaves, and look like the 'fairies' money' of a fern."

Mountain-ash berries are, it seems, not poison, or in any way pernicious, but capable of being made into very excellent jelly. Wych-elds are not so called on account of any supposed connection with witches, but from an old word *wiche*, signifying chest, as the wood was anciently in request for other boxes and chests besides coffins. Mr. Grindon does not repeat the old northern tradition about the aspen. This froward tree, it was said, refused to bow when all the other trees bowed when Jesus of Nazareth passed by, and therefore its leaves were, from that moment, struck with shivering, and have shivered ever since. But he furnishes the prosaic and real explanation—namely, that "the leaf-stalks are laterally compressed near the blade," so that by this little pinch close to their point of attachment the leaves are kept in a perpetual flutter.

Another of our old friends is the Scotch fir, conspicuous, wherever there is sunlight, by the inexpressibly rich deep red colour of its stem and branches, which we are informed is strictly speaking not a fir-tree at all, but a pine, *Pinus sylvestris*. While the oak opens its arms to insects, the pine seems to be unsocial towards plants.

"Partly owing to the dead leaves upon the soil, and partly to that of the dense and unbroken shade given

* *The Trees of Old England; Sketches of the Aspects, Associations, and Uses of those which constitute the Forest, and give effect to the Scenery of our Native Country.* By LEO H. GRINDON, Lecturer on Botany at the Royal College of Medicine, Manchester, Author of "Life: its Nature, Varieties, and Phenomena," &c., &c. F. Pittman.

by the conifers, and by none more remarkably than by our indigenous species, in the pine-wood again, there is an almost painful dearth of herbaceous vegetation, and consequently of flowers. No one ever gathers primroses in a pine-wood. The ground is never lighted up by a sea of anemones, nor do blue-bells or forget-me-not spread carpets of azure upon it. A few procumbent brambles, serving only as traps for the feet; a few of the larger kinds of sylvan shield-fern, and a few of the kinds that grow in cushion form tufts, constitute nearly the whole of the vegetation. Scattered among their alien-looking foliage, are the withered brown needles, and the emptied cones that have fallen overhead, perhaps even years ago, for they are slow to decay; and except that quaint fungi spring up in autumn, there is nothing else to attract the collector into these solemn recesses. But for the contemplative and poetic mind, there is no more powerful influence than is found in the pine-wood, and this is at any period of the year. In truth the pine-wood is not a place wherein to note seasons. It is independent of them; presenting none of that sweet succession that makes ever-changing picture galleries of the meadows; and except when the trees sustain their share of the white wonder of winter, the aspect is perennially the same. The pine-wood is always still. Therefore we note in it more intensely than anywhere else, the grand sound of the wind among the tops, that is so like the distant song of the sea. . . . Probably the great peculiarity of the sound comes of the needle-like form of the leaves, and of their infinite number, the wind playing among them in a way that the broad flat leaves of such trees as the oak cannot possibly admit of.

The willow, so commonly taken as a token of mourning or a symbol of sorrow, is to our own minds, we confess, associated with cheerfuller memories and thoughts. Of its wood, cricket-bats are made. Under its shadow we took part once in a very successful picnic. One of the pleasant scenes which belong to the early spring, is the spectacle of a dozen or a score of young children, sitting in a row under the lee of a hay-rick, or a barn, peeling osiers for the basketmaker. Earlier still, a little after the honeysuckle and the elder come into leaf, it is one species of willow, which is first of all decorated with mouse-coloured buds, and then with bright golden catkins—the same buds expanded and open—as fragrant as they are brilliant in hue. These were, in this country, the ancient or mediæval substitute for palm branches, when the entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem had to be celebrated symbolically. On the customs of different countries in this regard, Mr. Grindon quotes a verse which will probably be new to most of us:—

"In Rome, upon Palm Sunday
They bear true palms;
The cardinals bow reverently,
And sing old psalms.
Elsewhere, these psalms are sung
Mid the olive-branches;
The holly-bough supplies their place
Among the avalanches."

To us, the principal recommendation of this little work is not the passages of happy description, nor the bits of curious knowledge, which again and again occur, but that it helps to open our eyes to the latent wealth and unobserved loveliness which lie everywhere about our feet. As Mr. Grindon himself well says:—

"We have not yet quite learned that seeing, like conversation, is one of the Fine Arts, the principles of which come by nature, but which requires culture quite as much as our capacity for writing, or working out a sum in arithmetic."

BRIEF NOTICES.

Tales Told in the Twilight. Short Stories for Long Evenings. By SIDNEY DARYL. With Illustrations by GUSSE BRIDGMAN. (Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.) A lecture or a speech which seems rather disappointing when you read it over to yourself, as reported, may perhaps answer its purpose very well when actually delivered with all the accessories of living energy and expression. So there are books which seem intended to be read aloud, or which gain more than others, when the living voice is their vehicle. In this class we are disposed to place "Tales Told in the Twilight." Now that days are growing long, as well as when the twilight sets in earlier, they might be made very interesting indeed by a good reader. Of the pictures we have not a great deal to say. If the stories are here and there a little tame, some of the illustrations are tamer. The idea seems better than the execution, and it is very possible that these engravings, or the designs for them, are exercises through which the artist is making her way to a far higher stage of proficiency.

The Garden Oracle and Floricultural Year Book, 1868. Edited by SHIRLEY HIBBERD, F.R.H.S. (London: Groombridge and Sons.) Mr. Shirley Hibberd needs no commendations from us; his observations on practical gardening are always useful, and are valued by horticulturists, even though they may not always be accepted in the letter. This book contains a good deal of information for the inexperienced, and many hints which the constantly-increasing number of not unskilled amateurs in gardening will know how to avail themselves of. The list of new plants and flowers of 1867, will be studied by speculators who do not object to draw several blanks if they can also draw a prize or two. The blank page of the calendar in this volume is useful for memoranda of work done. The list of plants on the opposite page

has, however, no special appropriateness to a calendar; and we stigmatise as senseless and irreverent the insertion of the Scripture passages at the bottom of the page.

The Pastor and his People: Discussions on Ministerial Life and Character. By the Rev. A. F. DOUGLAS. (London: Jas. Nisbet and Co.) This is a prudent book rather than a wise one. There is an absence in it of that elevation of tone which is always characteristic of wisdom. The effect of it on a student or young minister would be to produce great wariness, probably it would teach him the right away of doing many things in his office; but it would not have the effect of deepening his reverence for his work, or kindling his enthusiasm in it. The absence of the "single eye" is what we complain of in the book. It is not that the advice is bad, or that there is no recognition of the higher aspects of the Christian ministry; but there is a constantly intruding self-consciousness, the question seems ever rising in the writer's mind,—“How will this ‘affect my getting on?’” For instance, Mr. Douglas, speaking of the influence of prayer on the minister, gives special prominence to this fact, that it will increase his authority among his people. He says, again and again, that prayer has higher issues than this, but he dwells with marked emphasis on this; he shows himself fully aware of the advantage of prayer in impressing a committee-meeting or social gathering with the sanctity of the ministerial character. This illustration is fairly characteristic of the tone of the whole volume; of self-forgetfulness under the influence of Christian solemnities there is none. The literary execution of the book is very poor. The style is slipshod, and the grammatical connection of the sentences is often defective. There are many Latin quotations, common-place as the examples in the Eton Grammar. Is Mr. Douglas or the printer responsible for the twice-occurring “*beno*” in Luther’s maxim on page 55? We do not want “fine sentences or stately periods,” but accuracy we have a right to expect in an author who descants on the necessity and advantage of “daily composition.” Mr. Douglas is never deterred from giving his advice in the most absolute form. One way is right, and only one, and that Mr. Douglas lays down. Perhaps a Presbyterian can scarcely be expected to understand the spirit that animates Congregational churches; but Mr. Douglas cannot have read the newspapers fairly, or he would not have been guilty of the following caricature. Speaking of “the growing prominence of the Baptist denominations,” he says:—“They ‘no longer consent to take a second place, or to be patronised as ‘our Baptist brethren.’ The overtures ‘recently made to them to become part and parcel of ‘the Independents have been rejected with disdain. ‘They no more need help or countenance; they are ‘able to stand on their own feet, to dictate their own ‘term; nay, some of them will suspect all such ‘overtures to be a confession of their growing ‘strength, and an indication of a suspicion ‘that they are being distanced in the race.’”

No “overtures” have been “recently made” to the Baptists “to become part and parcel” of the Independents. Absorption or comprehension has not been the dream of either party; certain Baptists and certain Independents, believing that the difference between them in ritual, rather than in faith, was not sufficient reason for their separate existence as denominations, have sought and found opportunities for united action and conference. The Independents, in the recent decision of the Congregational Union, have simply given practical witness that they admit what the Baptists have always affirmed, their common and equal right to the name Congregational. We believe, too, that the Baptists would indignantly repudiate the reasons Mr. Douglas assigns for the wish of so many of them that the denominations should continue separate. Mr. Douglas is not intending to bring against the Baptists an offensive charge of arrogant denominationalism; but this is what we are confident a growing number of Baptists would say he has done.

From Seventeen to Thirty. The Town Life of a Youth from the Country: its Trials, Temptations, and Advantages. Lessons from the History of Joseph. By T. BINNEY. (London: James Nisbet and Co.) A book more suited to young men than this brief and instructive sketch of Joseph’s conflicts and victories, it would not be easy to find. But few could have written it, for but few combine the ripened wisdom of age with that sympathy for the young in their difficulties and struggles of which we have so beautiful an example in Mr. Binney. He speaks with authority, and yet with kindness and consideration. He has made young men a study, and the years which have extended his experience and refined his judgment have not taken away that freshness and vigour which have always made his teachings so attractive to them. The present volume is not more distinguished by that remarkable pictorial power which clothes the old and familiar scenes of the Scripture narrative with a new life and interest, than by an analytic skill in the delineation of character, an appreciation of the subtle play of motive, and a sound practical judgment necessary to develop the instruction which it contains. Perhaps the most remarkable chapter is that on the “Great Temptation,” which is treated with singular delicacy and force. Mr. Binney speaks boldly and wisely where few would have dared to speak at all, and still fewer could have spoken to advantage. There is no want of plainness and no compromise of fidelity, but there is not a syllable to which the most

fastidious could take an objection. Such words of warning as those he gives are much needed, and we trust will have their influence on all to whom they are addressed. They are no hard precepts, spoken by one who from the sublime heights of his own virtue undertakes to warn or rebuke others, but tender, kindly words of one who appreciates the fierceness of the temptation by which they may be proved, and would, if possible, so prepare them that they may come out unscathed. To young men, therefore, we earnestly commend this book. Its literary attractions are considerable, but it is chiefly valuable as helping in the work and conflict of daily life, setting forth the high principles on which that life should be formed, and showing how godliness is the only true and lasting blessedness.

The Burden of Human Sin as Borne by Christ. Three Sermons by the late Rev. J. F. THURPP (London and Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.) Careful and discriminating, if not very profound or original, in thought, felicitous in their illustrations, and chaste, finished, and scholarly in style, these are an excellent specimen of University sermons. They deal with an old topic, but though they adhere rather more closely to the old paths of theology than is common now-a-days, they present the old truths in new settings. In the first sermon the preacher points out in a new and striking manner how the endurance of our Lord and its results illustrate some "simpler facts relative to the laws of the constitution of the world, and of the actually existing conditions of human life within it," especially as to the existence and the cause of suffering. In the second he shows how the various forms of sufferings which the Lord bore "were all visibly expressed by one mighty concentration of symbolism in that particular form of death which He ultimately endured." In the third he seeks to interpret the teaching of Scripture as to the desolation and anguish of the cross, "God's abandonment, by reason of the sins of mankind, of Him who was personally sinless; the withholding from Him, as the chief and willing representative of a guilty race, of the conscious enjoyment of the Divine upholding presence." Mr. Thrupp takes a middle course, setting forth his views with clearness and moderation, and commending them with great earnestness. We regret to think that this is a posthumous work. The preacher was capable of doing good service to the cause of truth, and his removal is a loss to the Church of which he was an ornament.

Essays from "Good Words." By HENRY ROGERS. (London: A. Strahan and Co.) This is a book of miscellaneous essays on subjects ranging from the higher mysteries of the faith down to such ordinary things as "Railway Accidents," and yet Mr. Rogers writes as sensibly on the more common as on the more profound topics. His is, indeed, an eminently practical intellect, with a rich vein of keen, caustic humour, which he employs with equal effect in exposing the delinquencies of railway directors, and the fallacies of Renan and Strauss, and which at one time will overwhelm with ridicule a pretentious sceptic, and at another will set forth with great lucidity and power the points involved in such questions as the propriety of Public Executions, or the economy of Strikes and Lock-outs. To say that this volume is marked by the author's leading characteristics, as sensible, as full of clever banter, as keen and as incisive as his other works, is to give it all the recommendation it needs.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

We are happy to see that, while so much is being said about educational schemes and systems, there are those whose zeal for imparting instruction is still taking a practical form. We have before us seven small and cheap volumes, intended, some for the primary, some for the advanced school, of most of which we have to speak in warm commendation.

To begin with the nursery, there is, the *Guide to General Information on Common Things*. By a LADY. (Standard School Library. London: Charles H. Clarke.) A little book full of useful and interesting knowledge. Children, so soon as they can read with ease, should have books like these put into their hands; they will take interest in things about them in proportion as they are well-informed; the habit of observation and inquiry will be formed and stimulated by an early acquaintance with the meaning of common words, and the nature of common things. Where so many matters are treated of as in this volume, it is not surprising to meet with some few mistakes. We have noted three, which it would be well to correct in a new edition. On page 39 it is said that beet is "often called mangel-wurzel." If so, an error is "often" committed. Even a child can tell the difference between the red-beet (*Beta vulgaris*), used for the table, and the mangel-wurzel (*Beta hybrida*), "used as food for cattle during the winter." The word "product" (p. 97), is hardly applicable to an elementary substance like "sulphur." The "superiority of Burton ale" is not "owing to the peculiarity of the water of the river Trent," for that water is not "used in brewing it." The water used in brewing all comes from springs supplied by the Outwood Hills, and to the presence of lime salts in this spring-water is due its power of precipitating organic substances, present in the malt but foreign to good beer. Trent water is only used for waste purposes.

Another of Mr. Clarke's Standard School Library Series, the *Guide to the Latin Language*, by EDWARD

TICKNER, B.A., P.C.D., we cannot recommend. The absence of paradigms is a serious defect in a Latin Grammar. The book has a copious supply of exercises with vocabularies, but it does not help the student to any of those comparative views of inflection which are absolutely essential to anything but the poorest empirical acquaintance with a language. There are also some serious blunders in the book. Mr. Tickner confounds the "substance" of philosophy with the "substance" of popular speech, and says, "Nouns, when tangible, are properly termed nouns substantive." (What, by the way, is a tangible noun?) He says, "The personal pronouns are termed substantives because they are invariable in form; the others are termed adjectives because, like the adjectives, they vary in form to agree with the nouns they stand for in gender, number, and case." He does not recognise that the personal pronouns represent logical "substances," the other pronouns being primarily only qualitative. This shallow treatment of grammar, as an arbitrary or conventional system, characterises the whole book.

The *German Grammar for Public Schools*, by the Rev. A. C. CLAPPIN, M.A., assisted by F. HOLL-MULLER, Phil. Doc. (London: Bell and Daldy), is valuable for the use made in it of comparison as an aid to the apprehension and the memory. It is a little book; fifty-eight pages of accidence and syntax are followed by about fifty-four of exercises. It does not touch at all upon historical philology, and, "being intended for the use of classical students," "all explanations of grammatical terms have been dispensed with" in it. It confines itself to the forms and rules of present speech and composition in German, and these it sets forth with admirable clearness and clearness. It is the very book for classical schools, or for educated persons wishing to teach themselves German.

Mr. J. S. Laurie, formerly H. M. Inspector of Schools, has produced an excellent *Sixpenny Geography*, and an admirable *English Grammar Simplified*. (London: J. Marshall and F. Laurie.) The geography has one fault, necessary in so cheap a volume; it is too condensed, being little more than a table of geographical information. Mr. Laurie has followed common-sense in his order of division. The first part of the book treats of the British Empire; the second of Europe; the third of Asia, Africa, America, and Oceania. The complaint of school inspectors that children are well-up in the geography of Paraguay, but are left profoundly ignorant of their own country, would be removed if teachers would follow the order here prescribed.—*English Grammar Simplified*.—We have never seen an elementary grammar better fitted to show children that the laws of speech are natural and not arbitrary. In the hands of a competent teacher, this little book might be made the text-book of lessons most interesting to children, and preparing them for a philosophic acquaintance with the English tongue.

We include under the title of School-books the first volume of *French Classics: a Selection of Plays by Corneille, Molière, and Racine*, edited, with English Notes, by GUSTAVE MASSON, B.A. (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press); and Dr. Lankester's *School Manual of Health* (London: Groombridge and Sons)—for both are intended for advanced classes in schools. The character of the books, however, and the beautiful typography of that issued from the Clarendon Press, make them worthy of a place in the shelves of the family library. Mr. Masson is anxious to give readers the best text of the French classics; and to this edition of Corneille's "Cinna," and Molière's "Femmes Savantes," he has added notes explanatory and illustrative of uncommon, provincial, or obsolete words, constructions, and idioms, with an occasional critical quotation. The student must have a poor sense of humour who, under Mr. Masson's guidance, does not enjoy the absurdities of Molière's characters.—*Manual of Health*.—Dr. Lankester's volume is also "an Introduction to the Elementary Principles of Physiology." It sets forth in a few simple words the composition of the human body and the functions of its different organs. In one or two instances the composition betokens haste, but the wisdom of the book is uniformly conspicuous. If we might hope that ladies would listen to any advice, however prudent, in opposition to the dictates of fashion, we would commend to their notice Dr. Lankester's remarks on clothing. Mothers especially ought to know how children are tortured, how their health is injured and their lives sometimes lost by the habit of putting them into short clothes, without "clothing them beneath." The maternal pride which delights in the display of a child's well-formed limbs is often a fruitful source of disease and death. There are in this book some excellent remarks on the proper uses and limits of gymnastic and athletic exercises, likely to be especially useful to the class to whom this volume is addressed. Dr. Lankester discriminates between the material structure of the brain and the functions which it performs; between the seat of consciousness and the conscious spiritual being. The moral influence of the whole book on young students cannot fail to be good.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood has an article on the "American Constitution, and the Impeachment of the President," written in the style in which it always treats American questions. We can remember the time when Andrew Johnson was

no favourite with our Tory scribes, when his failings were eagerly watched and quoted as arguments against the Republic which had elected such a man to be its Vice-President. But he has crossed the hopes and thwarted the plans of the friends of liberty; he has sought to help the cause of the slave-holder, and now they suddenly discover his high qualities. "The worst (says the writer before us) that can be said of his public character, is that he is too good a man for revolutionary times, too honest for an effective party ruler, and too tardy in all his actions, however rightful these may be, to be available as a hero, though well adapted to become a martyr." These dissertations on American affairs, however, would be very harmless but for the impression they give a sensitive and suspicious people as to the determination of an influential party among us to set itself in direct antagonism to all their views, to depreciate the men they honour, and honour those whom they despise. *Blackwood* has a clever correspondent with the Abyssinian expedition, who gives us here a second instalment of his observations. "Unlucky Tim Griffin," of which we have the conclusion in this number, is one of those smart, clever, rollicking stories by which the pages of *Old Ebony* are occasionally lighted up. A sketch and review of George Eliot's new poem, is one of the interesting features of the number.

Fraser is very solid. The majority of readers, we fear, would say, heavy, with a decided inclination to dulness. We have not an article on contemporary topics, if we except that on "Spiritualism in the United States"; and though Mr. Barton's tales of Indian devilry are thoroughly well done, and Mr. Southey's life of Sir Philip Sydney is interesting enough in its way, and the sketch of Emmanuel Swedenborg very fair and instructive, — we confess we should like something of a more stirring and attractive character. Bunsen's life and last book forms the topic of one of the best papers in the number, and will well repay perusal; but the number is certainly not up to its own average. We never look to *Fraser* as a mere vehicle of amusement; but it has generally a point and power which we miss in the present issue, and which we regret the more, because at present the Liberal cause has need of all the help which its literature can give, and which *Fraser* has so often given with remarkable effect. The election may be put off, and Lord Elcho may get his holidays; but there is a great work before earnest men, even during those summer months in which generally we look for some relief from the pressure of controversial topics.

The *Cornhill* has another of Mr. Matthew Arnold's papers, with the thorough enjoyment of which no difference of opinion need interfere. It is occupied mainly with an attempt to discriminate between Hebraism, the "care for fire and strength, strictness of conscience," and Hellenism, the "care for sweetness and light." He, of course, insists on the importance of cultivating this latter element, which "is always for everybody more wanted than Hebraism," and especially at present for the Rev. W. Cattle and the majority of his fellow-countrymen. The paper contains a great deal of ingenious and original thought, rendered all the more interesting by the characteristic beauty of style with which it is clothed. In another paper Mr. Arnold proposes to show how the work of culture is to be done, and the instincts and forces which, under the influence of Puritanism and Philistinism, have been unduly neglected to be called into full play. Under the title of "Under the Sea" we have a light gossiping paper, full of life and incident on the work of divers. Among other curious facts which it records it tells us that the "Mulgraves of diplomatic history" are descended from a celebrated diver, one Captain Phipps, who "in 1687, assisted with funds by Monk, Duke of Albemarle, succeeded in recovering 200,000*l.* from the wrecks" of Spanish galleons. "Camp Life in Abyssinia" is vividly sketched by one who has endured its trials; the character and abuses of the medieval pilgrimages are exposed in a paper with the appropriate heading of "A Group of Vagabonds"; and the advantages of the Royal Hospital of Incurables are described by one who has recently visited that interesting "city of refugees" which Christian benevolence has provided for a class of sufferers whose sad circumstances must awake the sympathy of every feeling heart.

The *Oak* does not seem to have any very definite idea to work out. Though it has two or three articles on topics of interest and importance, it treats them in too slight and superficial a style. "William Ewart Gladstone" deserves much more careful treatment than he has received in a paper which only gives the most commonplace summary of his life, whose accuracy may be estimated by the fact that he is said to have been the leader of the House of Commons under Lord Aberdeen's Government. So also the "Working Man in Parliament" is a curious and interesting study on which we should all be glad to get some light, but unfortunately we do not get it here. Hain Friswell's account of "Gog-Magog's Ground" and the criticism of the "three last paintings for the Houses of Parliament," and Mr. Collingwood's essay on the "Forms of Animals" are of a higher order.

Saint Pauls undertakes, with great spirit and gallantry, the defence of the ladies against some recent attacks in the *Saturday Review*; but, though chivalrous and well-intentioned, and in some respects very effective, we can hardly pronounce the defence equal to the

attack. This, indeed, must almost necessarily be the case, for a satirist, if possessed of wit and cleverness, has an unquestionable advantage over one who, in rebutting his columns, has little opportunity for the display of these qualities, except, indeed, when he becomes an assailant in his turn, which the writer before us occasionally does with considerable success. The sketch of the "Wilds of Cheeshire" introduces us to a district almost unknown to fashionable tourists, and shows how much there is of interest and beauty in parts of our own country, which have hardly been explored at all. The writer on "British Rule in India" is, on the whole, sensible in his views, though he pushes them too far, especially when he refers so hopelessly and slightly to missionary work. Like a great many others who discuss Indian topics, on this point he evidently knows little. "Phineas Finn" is disappointing this month. The author can, and ought, to infuse more spirit in it, or we shall begin to suspect that whatever he knows of ecclesiastical, he knows little of political, life.

Temple Bar has, as usual, a great variety of light reading; but why it should introduce a story so intensely sensational, and, withal, so revolting as that of "Mrs. Maurice," we cannot divine. Mr. Sala's sketch of Lord Brougham is graphic and spirited, and generally just.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* comes out in new garb, and evidently designs to put forth fresh spirit and energy. The aim of its conductors, however, is to adapt its original idea to the altered circumstances of the age. After briefly reciting some interesting points in its lengthened history, the editor says:—"We mean to try to make the *Gentleman's Magazine* what a clear-headed author like Johnson, and a shrewd man of business like Cave, would have sought to make it, had they lived in the present year, from the building of the City of London. We thus claim all the benefit of our splendid pedigree, while we avoid the non-wisdom of endeavouring to live on tradition." The present number fully answers to this description; and, if its promise be fulfilled, our old friend "Sylvanus Urban" may find a good place even in the crowded ranks of our periodical literature.

(To be continued.)

Miscellaneous.

On Wednesday last, at the Surrey Sessions, forty-four tradesmen were fined, in the aggregate, 64*l.* for using false weights and measures.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—Number of patients for the week ending May 30, 1,124, of which 356 were new cases.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.—The overseers of Salford have arrived at the conclusion that "they have no alternative but to place all duly qualified females on the next Parliamentary register for the borough." The new Reform Act distinctly limits the franchise to "every man" who satisfies the conditions laid down; but the overseers are of opinion that this does not necessarily exclude women, as an Act passed in the thirteenth year of her Majesty provides "that all words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, and the singular to include the plural, and the plural the singular, unless the contrary as to gender or number is expressly provided."

A NOBLE INSTANCE OF SELF-SACRIFICE was witnessed at Newcastle on Sunday. While four children were on the railway near the station an engine and tender came up. One little fellow ran for the platform, and his example was followed by his elder sister. Looking back, however, she saw that the other two children were in imminent danger. She returned to them and drew them to her side, between the rails and the platform. As the engine passed, the connecting rod struck her down and she died in a few moments. The children she had so nobly protected escaped almost unhurt. The name of this heroic little maiden was Margaret Wilson, daughter of a miner. Her brother was unable to reach a place of safety, and he too was killed.

THE COMPOUNDER.—Upwards of 6,000 persons were summoned to appear at the Hackney Town-hall, on Friday, for non-payment of rates. At ten o'clock Mr. Butler, M.P., Mr. John Morley, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Charles Reed were in attendance, and the whole day was spent in adjudicating the cases of a body of respectable poor people who are suffering under the operation of the ratepaying clauses of the new Reform Bill. Such a scene of affliction and trouble was never before witnessed in the parish of Hackney. In many cases the landlords have raised the rents. It is said that there are as many as 50,000 defaulting compound householders in the East-end parishes, and 7,000 in the parish of Lambeth, who are unable, under the Reform Act, to pay their poor-rates.

THE PROPOSED RAILWAY LEAGUE.—A numerously attended meeting was held in the Town-hall, Canterbury, on Friday, to discuss the bill now passing through the House of Lords for establishing a union with the railways south of the Thames. The Mayor occupied the chair. In the course of a long discussion that followed, it was shown that if the bill as at present framed was allowed to become law, not only would less trains run owing to the continental traffic carried on between the South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Companies' lines being concentrated to one of the systems, but that third-class passengers travelling other than by a Parliamentary train on the two lines above-named would have to pay an increase of 50 per cent. on the present rate of charges. The meeting determined to petition the House of Lords not to pass the

bill "unless more favourable terms of trains and fares be conceded to the public." A meeting with a similar object was held at Margate on Thursday evening, and a resolution condemnatory of the scheme was carried.

THE SUNDAY LIQUOR BILL.—One day last week, Mr. George Potter gave evidence before the select committee on Sale of Liquors on Sunday Bill. Mr. Potter said he had well studied the provisions of the present bill, and was greatly in favour of it. The condition of the working classes had been his study for years. No doubt amongst skilled labourers of late years there had been a great decrease in drinking habits, but amongst unskilled labourers the same progress had not been made. He did not believe it was necessary to the comfort of Sunday excursionists that they should find public-houses open to them when they returned to town. When he used to go out on Sunday excursions he frequently found himself more exhausted and more unfit for work on the Monday morning than when he had left it on the Saturday evening. In answer to further questions, Mr. Potter said he thought Sunday excursions the hardest work a man could do. Though in favour of the bill he did not defend it on religious grounds, but for the sake of preserving Sunday as a day of rest.

THE TEN TOWNS.—The ten English towns which having less than 5,000 inhabitants at the census in 1861 are still by the law, as it at present stands, to return one member to Parliament, rank in the following order by population:—Arundel, 2,498 in 1861; Ashburton, 3,062; Lyme Regis, 3,215; Honiton, 3,301; Thetford, 4,208; Dartmouth, 4,444; Wells, 4,648; Evesham, 4,680; Northallerton, 4,735; Marlborough, 5,893. The Boundary Commissioners have no recommendation to make for the extension of the boundaries of these boroughs. The number of electors on the register in 1866, deducting double entries, was as follows:—Arundel, 174; Thetford, 224; Lyme Regis, 350; Honiton, 267; Wells, 274; Marlborough, 275; Dartmouth, 282; Evesham, 337; Ashburton, 350; Northallerton, 547. Seven of the ten towns are in the south of England:—Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Sussex. Five have hitherto returned two members:—Honiton, Thetford, Wells, Evesham, Marlborough. [Seven only of these towns are, it appears from Mr. Disraeli's statement on Thursday, to be disfranchised, and we suppose that Evesham, Northallerton, and Marlborough will be spared.]

CRIMINAL LITERATURE.—The pernicious effect of felon literature on the young was strikingly exemplified last week. Two boys were tried at Middlesex Sessions for burglary. They had broken into the office of a tradesman who employed one of them and stolen a few pounds, which they spent in a trip to the play and other amusements. Their father said they had once been good boys, but of late their minds had been poisoned by reading of infamous publications, such as the "Juvenile Highwayman," and other things of that stamp; and as if to confirm his statement, it transpired that the officers who apprehended the lads found in their possession a collection of what may be called robber properties, such as a dark lantern, a loaded pistol, percussion caps, and several implements of house-breaking; just the tools, in fact, with which the heroes of the boy stories perform their wonderful exploits. A very extraordinary case came before the Thames police-magistrate, on Wednesday. A well-dressed lad of fifteen, who adopted the name of Captain Scarlett, was charged with the commission of eight watch robberies. When he was taken into custody he was armed with a stiletto, a six-barrelled revolver, and other weapons, and when he was followed by a boy after his last daring robbery in the shop of Mr. Ludson, watchmaker, in Cannon-street-road, London, he threatened to stab the boy, and would probably have carried his diabolical threat into execution if he had not been seized by some grown persons who promptly interfered. A black mask for the face, a long cord, and a pocket-book were found upon him. In the pocket-book he had entered the name of Captain Scarlett in a fair round hand; and on the opposite page a list of eight watches, their value attached to each, and dates corresponding in every respect with the dates of his eight most impudent robberies. The revolver and stiletto were also stolen by him. No clue has been obtained to his parents, friends, or antecedents, but there is no doubt he has received a tolerably good education. It seems more than probable that the prisoner's mind has been poisoned by the felon literature of the day. He was committed for trial.—The *London Review*, writing on this subject, says:—"The *Star* of Thursday publishes a letter from Mr. James Greenwood on the pernicious stuff in print sold for the corruption of boys. It is difficult to reach the unscrupulous scoundrels who make money by this traffic; but there is one measure which might be taken with them. Let the names and addresses of the chief writers and proprietors of these gallews journals be made known, so that public opinion might be at once directed personally upon them. If they possess wives or children, and live in decent neighbourhoods, they might find this exposure inconvenient. They are without the pale of courtesy, and an exception in their cases of a rule of literary etiquette would not in the least affect the general custom."

Gleanings.

It is at last definitely announced that on the 8th of June the *Daily News* will be reduced to the price of one penny.

Thirty gallons of ripe strawberries, grown in the open air at Dawlish, were last week forwarded to the metropolis.

At the Marylebone Police-court, on Monday, a man was fined 100*l.* for keeping a betting-house. The full penalty was inflicted, as it was the prisoner's second offence.

The annual horse show was opened at the Agricultural Hall on Monday. There has been a large attendance. To-day the Prince of Wales visits the exhibition.

In 1866 the number of lives lost by shipwrecks is calculated to have been 2,644; last year, with all its peculiar and unforeseen perils, the total was only 1,346.

THE OLDEN TIMES REVIVED.—It is stated that a stage coach will shortly be started to run between London and Windsor. The proprietors, we believe, are some aristocratic "whips," and it will only run during the summer months.

SEA-SICKNESS.—A clergyman, who went in a Pacific steamer, and was sea-sick, thus describes his sensations:—"The first hour I felt as if I wanted to go ashore: the second hour I felt as if I should die; the third hour I didn't care whether I died or not; the fourth hour I was afraid I shouldn't die."

The capacity of our great public halls is generally exaggerated. Exeter Hall is often spoke of as able to accommodate 5,000 and Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle 7,000 or 10,000. A weekly contemporary makes a safer statement as to St. James's Hall, of which it is said that "it will accommodate less than 4,000." We believe Exeter Hall when crammed does not afford room for 4,000, or Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle for 6,000, or St. James's Hall for 3,000.

WASH AND BE CLEAN.—Abernethy once said to a rich but dirty patient who consulted him about an eruption:—"Let your servant bring you three or four pails of water, and put it into a washtub; take off your clothes, get into it, and rub yourself well with soap and a rough towel, and you'll recover." "This advice seems very much like telling me to wash myself," said the patient. "Well," said Abernethy, "it may be open to such a construction."

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH.—The following story was told by Dr. William Arnot, at a *soirée* in Sir H. W. Moncreiff's church in Edinburgh the other evening:—"Dr. Macleod and Dr. Watson were in the West Highlands together, on a tour, ere leaving for India. While crossing a loch in a boat, in company with a number of passengers, a storm came on. One of the passengers was heard to say, 'The two ministers should begin to pray, or we'll be drowned.' 'Na, na,' said the boatman, 'the little ane can pray if he likes, but the big ane maun tak' an oar.'"

A HIGH STYLE.—Coming into court one day, Erskine perceived the ankle of Mr. Balfour, who generally expressed himself in a very circumlocutory manner, tied up with a silk handkerchief. "Why, what's the matter?" said he. "I was taking a romantic ramble in my brother's grounds, when, coming to a gate, I had to climb over it, by which I came in contact with the first bar, and grazed the epidermis of my leg, which has caused a slight extravasation of blood." "You may thank your lucky stars," replied Erskine, "that your brother's gate was not as lofty as your style, or you must have broken your neck!"

A STEAM BIRD.—Under this title Mr. J. K. Smythies, of Paddington, barrister-at-law, proposes to introduce a "flying steam-engine," fitted with wings, flapped by the action of steam. He reduces the ratio of the weight of the engine to its power by using a tubular boiler, with very small and thin tubes. He will use liquid fuel and carry very little water, condensing the steam by a very light condenser, made like the tail of a bird, to sustain the bird and steady its flight. The arms of the wings are connected with the piston-rod of the engine, so that the apparatus is raised by the strokes of the wings alone, without lighted gas, heated air, or other contrivance to give it buoyancy. To this engine he attaches seats for one or more passengers.

NEW USES OF ELECTRO-MAGNETISM.—For ornamentation, too, electricity is coming into use. You may see at a fashionable ball at Paris a lady, on the top of whose head sits a butterfly or a humming-bird. The fly or the bird flutter their wings in the most natural way possible. How is it managed? Why, within the chignon are concealed a small battery and a minute Rhumkorff coil. On the bosom of another may be a brooch, with a head upon it, the eyes of which turn in all directions. This, too, is accomplished by the use of a battery and coil so minute as to be concealed within the brooch itself. These small batteries, easily carried about the person, are the inventions of M. Trouvé. The batteries of zinc, excited by solution of sulphate of mercury, are enclosed in vulcanite cells, so that the exciting solution cannot escape to the damage of the wearer.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

INCOMES IN AMERICA.—Mr. W. B. Astor is taxed for municipal purposes on a property valued at 3,000,000*l.* and upwards; he returned his income last year at about 200,000*l.*, and he actually paid altogether during the year 1867 a sum exceeding 80,000*l.* in direct taxes alone. One opulent citizen was taxed upon property assessed at 1,500,000*l.*, and three others were rated on a capital of nearly 1,000,000*l.* each. Some of the trading incomes, however much they may have been reduced, are still magnificent in amount. Mr. J. G. Bennett, of the *New York Herald*, returns between 30,000*l.* and 35,000*l.* for the profits of the year; Mr. Bonner, of the *New York Ledger*, little short of 50,000*l.* Mr. R. M. Hoe, the manufacturer of the printing-presses which bear his name, cleared over 20,000*l.* in 1867, and Mr. Delmonico, the hotel-keeper, about 14,000*l.*, while the Rev. Henry Ward

Beecher returns come of nearly \$8,000, or about twice that of an "S" bishop. From Cincinnati the largest return for last year is but \$20,000, from Chicago, \$40,000. It was cleared by Mr. McCormick, the maker of the reaping machines; but a manufacturer of "sleeping cars" for railways reported his profits at nearly \$15,000. The *Chicago Tribune*, too, must be a flourishing country paper, for it returns \$5,000 to one of its proprietors, and \$2,000 to another.

How THE UNION WITH IRELAND WAS CARRIED.—"A member of Parliament waited on a friend of Lord Castlereagh. He asked for a favour from Government. It was refused. No way discouraged, the member said, 'You are in the confidence of the Minister. I will speak in the debate. If what I asked is granted give me a nod, and I will support the Union.' The member spoke; he enumerated with great force and clearness the objections to the proposals of the Government. The Minister was struck with the ability of the speaker, and directed the nod to be given. The member proceeded—'Such are the arguments which, for the sake of fairness, I have stated in their full force against the proposed union. But there arguments of still stronger force, which I will proceed to enumerate, and which convince me that the proposal of the Government ought to be adopted.' He got his reward."—*Earl Russell's pamphlet.*

MR. SPURGEON'S BAPTISM.—At the Stockwell Orphanage ceremony, on Monday, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon said, in the course of his speech:—"He was a Baptist from conviction, and became one through being sent to a Church of England school. In asking him his catechism they asked him the usual question, 'What is your name?' and he said 'Spurgeon.' When they asked him his Christian name, he said he had not got one, for he was not a Christian. They told him he had the name his godfather and godmother gave him, but he replied he had no godfather nor godmother. They then said he had not been baptized rightly, but he replied he was sure he had, as his grandfather christened him in the big china basin in the back parlour, and as he had done lots before he must have known how to do it properly. He did not know at that time that there were any other people in the world who were Baptists besides himself, and it gave him great joy when he found others held similar opinions to those which his early thoughts ripened into."

SYDNEY SMITH'S PREFERENCE.—The late Rev. Sydney Smith owed his first valuable piece of preference to the persistence of Lady Holland. Erskine was a constant visitor at Holland House. As soon as he was made Lord Chancellor, Lady Holland laid close siege to him to compel him to confer a living on Smith. Erskine at last yielded, and Smith called on him to thank him for the appointment. The Chancellor disavowed all claim to being thanked. "Lady Holland," he said, "insisted on my giving it to you; and if she had desired me to give it to the devil," he added, "I must have had it!" There was something of the same spirit in the remark of George III. when he nominated a man he disliked to a bishopric. The person thus preferred coyly confessed himself unworthy of the preferment. To this the king replied that he knew that well enough, but the Prime Minister would have it so, and he (the king) had yielded to the persistency. This mock-modest prelate may have been the bishop of whom Smith said that he looked so like Judas as to induce Smith at last to firmly believe in the apostolical succession!—*Saints and Sinners.*

THE LATE LORD BROUGHAM.—M. Louis Blanc, in a remarkable letter to the *Temps* on the death of Lord Brougham, takes occasion to relate a very characteristic story of that extraordinary man, which has not yet, we believe, been published in England. M. Louis Blanc had heard it from the celebrated Francois Arago, who was one of Lord Brougham's old and intimate friends. Some years ago, Lord Brougham, who, it may be remarked, was an associated foreign member of the Académie des Sciences, sent Arago a manuscript, with the request that he would read it, and give its author his opinion on its merits. The illustrious astronomer read the manuscript, and replied, "Throw it into the fire and say nothing more about it," advice, by-the-by, which reminds us of Uncle Toby's mode of dealing with the production of a very youthful poet. The work in question treated of the influence exercised by the philosophical doctrines of La Harpe on the character, the aspirations, and the policy of the Czar Alexander I. On this topic the noble commentator had been lavish of ingenious reflections. Unfortunately Lord Brougham had taken the French *littérateur* La Harpe for the Swiss colonel of the same name, who was tutor to the Grand Dukes Alexander and Constantine.

A WHITSUN CUSTOM.—Among singular customs, now obsolete, observed in the Whitsun season, may be noticed one at Ensham (Oxford). There the town-people were allowed to cut down and carry away as much timber as they could lay in the Abbey yard, the church-wardens making the first chop on the trees. As much as they could carry out, in spite of the opposition of the servants, they were to keep for the reparation of the church. By this service they kept the right of commonage.—Kidlington, in the same county, had a custom, on the Monday after Whitsun week, to run after a live fat lamb. The manner was, that the maids of the town, having their hands tied behind them, should pursue the lamb until one caught it with her teeth. This expert was entitled, "The lady of the lamb." The victim was then dressed, and, with the skin hanging on, carried on a pole before the lady and her companions, to the green. Here a morris dance was performed, and the rest of the day spent in dancing and merry-making. The day following the lamb was part baked, boiled, and roasted for the lady's feast,

where she presided, with her companions, music, and attendants. And thus the affair ended.—*Whitsunside Annual.*

PRINTED SERMONS.—A curious illustration of this subject once presented itself to me in one of our western villages. The rector and the curate had been absent for some time; but they were efficiently represented while they were away. They returned to resume duty on the same day. The curate took the morning service, while the rector officiated for a friend in a neighbouring parish; but the rector was present in the evening to preach the sermon after the curate had read prayers. The sermon in the morning was so good that the members of the congregation congratulated themselves on the effects which change of air had had upon the preacher's style and powers generally. When the rector ascended the pulpit in the evening they hoped that a judicious holiday-time had had the same effect upon him, and they felt that they would be better able to judge when they heard him give out the same text which had formed the subject of the curate's illustration in the forenoon. Very soon, however, they found that it was not only the same text, but the same sermon; and then the faces of the congregation assumed a variety of expression that might have defied Herr Schultze himself to repress. There was but one placid countenance in the whole church, and that was the preacher's, who went on quite unconscious of the day's history and its consequences. There was but one face besides that did not bear upon it an expression of fun, or comic surprise, or a laughable perplexity and puzzlement, and that was the curate's. He, good man! looked the more concerned and abashed as he tried to look otherwise—the more he strove to assume a guise of indifference the more intensely horrified he grew. In short, the two worthy personages had, unknown to each other, purchased a dozen or so of lithographed manuscript sermons, and they had had the ill luck, without communication with each other, to select the same sermon wherewith to inaugurate their return to the old pasture. The people, however, were good-natured people, the two clergymen were worthy men, and beyond a harmless joke or two no harm came of this little misadventure. It is more dangerous, perhaps, to preach the printed than the written sermons of other people. I remember an illustration of this in the case of a "popular preacher." On leaving his church, where he had delivered a very original discourse, he asked a clerical friend who had been present, what he thought of the sermon. The friend spoke of it in terms of the warmest praise, and then the subject was dropped. In the course of the following week, however, the friend, for purposes of his own, purchased three volumes of sermons delivered and printed in America a dozen years before. In the second volume, opening it by chance, he came upon the very original sermon that his friend had preached and asked his opinion of on the previous Sunday! He quietly put that volume in his pocket, and went down to the chapel. "Jack!" said he—they were both of the free-and-easy style of popular preacher—"Jack! what rascals these Yankees are! Here" (taking out the book) "they have taken the excellent sermon I heard you preach last Sunday, and printed it—a dozen years ago!" Jack laughed, hummed a tune, offered his friend a cigar, and walked away to one of the theatres!—*Saints and Sinners.*

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap 37, for the week ending Wednesday, May 30.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£34,977,385	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	£3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	£9,977,385
	£34,977,385		£34,977,385

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£18,294,557
Reserve	£8,113,550	Other Securities	£19,272,916
Public Deposits	£6,195,503	Notes	£11,396,590
Other Deposits	£30,847,589	Gold & Silver Coin	£1,313,367
Seven Day and other Bills	£467,179		
	£45,176,830		£45,176,830

May 28, 1868. GEORGE FORBES, Chief Cashier.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

MELLOR.—May 17, the wife of the Rev. E. Mellor, A.M., of Halifax, of a daughter.
FARRER.—May 20, at 8, Victoria-road, Hampstead, the wife of the Rev. W. Farrer, LL.B., of a daughter.
EDWARDS.—May 28, at the Green, Calne, Wilts, the wife of the Rev. Edwin Edwards of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

RENWICK—SAUNDERS.—On the 26th March, at the Congregational Chapel, Redfern, Sydney, N.S.W., Arthur Renwick, M.D. Edinburgh, B.A. Sydney, F.R.C.S.E., to Elizabeth, only daughter of the late John Saunders, Esq., of Laurence Pountney lane, London, solicitor.
THOMAS—RAW.—May 14, by the Rev. Thomas W. Aveling, Wm. Thomas, Esq., of Cleasby Villa, Tollington Park, to Emily Louise, eldest stepdaughter of Geo. Raw, Esq., of Clarence House, Shacklewell-lane.
MEDLEY—MEDLEY.—May 30, at Bootle Chapel, by the Rev. C. M. Birrell, Samuel, eldest son of Mr. William Medley, to Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. Guy Medley, of Orrell Lodge, near Liverpool.
EDWARDS—WINDELER.—May 23, in Park Chapel, Crouch-end, Hornsey, by the Rev. John Corbin, Mr. John Edwards, to Mrs. Windeler, both of Victoria Grove, South Hornsey.
GUTHRIE—KENNEDY.—May 23, at Westbourne-grove Chapel, by the Rev. W. G. Lewis, James, eldest son of James Guthrie, of Belfast, to Barbara Letitia, second daughter of James Kennedy, Esq., late of Black House, Clonaboye, Ireland.

WEAVER—FEAR.—May 24, at the Congregational chapel, Clifton, by the Rev. F. Hinde, Michael, second son of Mr. Michael Weaver, of Winton, to Christiana, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Richard Fear, of Obow Magna.
MARSHALL—EKLBY.—May 24, at the Baptist Chapel, Barnsley, by the Rev. J. Compston, Mr. Thomas Marshall, to Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Josiah Eklby, of Barnsley.

NEWBOULD—WHITLEY.—May 24, at the Congregational church, Saltire, by the Rev. John Knox Stallybrass, Mr. Joseph Newbould to Miss Eliza Whitley, both of Bradford.
KEIGHLEY—BURNLEY.—May 24, at the Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike, by the Rev. Allen Miles, Stephen Keighley, Esq., to Marianne Burnley, youngest daughter of the late John Burnley, Esq., Grove House, Heckmondwike.

WALKER—HARGREAVES.—May 25, at the Bethel Baptist chapel, Shipley, by the Rev. Henry Dawson, President of Bury Baptist College, Mr. Jonathan Walker, of Shipley, to Miss Anne Hargreaves, of Nannington.

BLACKWELL—BALE.—May 24, at Park Chapel, Crouch-end, Hornsey, by the Rev. E. Derrington, of Brown Hills, Staffordshire, James Webb Blackwell, Esq., of Mount Gambles, South Australia, to Matilda Bale, daughter of John Bale, Esq., Wood Green, Middlesex.

MILLER—WORTHINGTON.—May 24, at the Congregational church, Cheetham Hill, by the Rev. G. W. Oander, Matthew Miller, jun., to Amelia Worthington, second daughter of Thomas Worthington, The Elms, Queen's Park.

CREESE—NATHAN.—On the 27th May, at the Congregational Chapel, Woodford, by the Rev. E. T. Egg, Charles Robert Creese, Esq., of Tewkesbury, to Annie, eldest daughter of Edward Nathan, Esq., The Ferns, Woodford.

ORABTREE—BRADBURY.—May 27, at St. John Independent Chapel, Halifax, by the Rev. S. Dale, Mr. James Orabtree, to Miss Mary Ann Bradbury, both of Halifax.

ARNOLD—WOODHEAD.—May 27, at Trinity Chapel, Horton-lane, Bradford, by the Rev. J. S. Anderson, George, only son of Tubal Cain Arnold, to Miss Phoebe Woodhead, only daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Woodhead, of Horton.

GWYTHER—CALENDER.—May 28, at Union Chapel, Oxford-road, Manchester, by the Rev. A. McLean, James Gwyther, Esq., M.B., youngest son of the Rev. James Gwyther, to Lucy Victoria, daughter of W. R. Calender, Esq., The Elms, Didsbury.

FRIDIE—BROWN.—May 28, at Falkland-road Chapel, Kentish-town, London, by the Rev. James Friddle, of Halifax, father of the bridegroom, Robert H. Friddle, of Friday-street, City, to Kate, daughter of Thomas Brown, Esq., 19, Lady Margaret-road, London.

ARNOTT—STEPHENSON.—May 28, at the Baptist chapel, Beverley, by the Rev. W. O. Upton, William Arnott, draper, Market-place, to Sarah Ann Stephenson, both of Beverley.

WHITLEY—MELLOR.—May 28, at the Baptist Chapel, Trinity-road, Halifax, by the Rev. F. Timmis, John, eldest son of Mr. Peter Whitley, to Sarah Ann, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Mellor, all of Snyland.

PAIGE—ROBINSON.—On the 28th May, at Kingsland Congregational Church, Kingsland, by the Rev. T. W. Aveling, William Paige, of South Molton, Devon, to Elizabeth, only daughter of the late W. G. Robinson, of Stoke Newington.

HILL—PURCHASE.—May 28, at the Independent Chapel, by the Rev. G. Osborne, Richard Hill, son of Mr. Hill, Lincombe Farm, Kingsbrompton, to Mary Purchase, daughter of Mr. Purchase, farmer, Kingsbrompton.

DEATHS.

WILKINSON.—April 30, Emily Mary, in her sixth year, and on May 28, Louisa Gertrude, in her fifth year, daughters of the Rev. S. Wilkinson, Taunton.

MUIR.—On the night of the 22nd May, drowned near Lamorna Land's End, Cornwall, by the wreck of the steamship *Garonne*, Mary Erskine Muir, aged thirty-six, wife of James Muir, Esq., Glasgow; and at the same time, Mary Erskine, in her tenth year; Margaret Elizabeth, aged eight years; and Anna Erskine Jackson, aged nine months—their children; also Madeline and Marie, their nurses.

SCHOFIELD.—May 28, in the sixty-second year of his age, at Burslem, the Rev. Samuel Barton Schofield, for thirty-three years pastor of the Queen-street Independent church in that town.

NEBBITT.—May 28, at Strandtown, Belfast, Jesse Kathleen, wife of W. Nebbitt, Esq., Professor of Latin, Queen's College, Belfast.

CLARKE.—On the 26th inst., at 13, Colebrook-row, Islington, N., Frances, the beloved wife of the Rev. R. P. Clarke, of City-road Congregational Chapel, and youngest daughter of the late Rev. G. Payne, LL.D., of Plymouth, aged forty-six.

MARCH.—May 28, at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, Caroline Elizabeth, the wife of the Rev. Henry March, aged sixty-six years. She was a true minister's wife, and most devoted mother.

FLUDE.—May 31, Mr. John Flude, of Huntingthorpe Leicestershire, aged fifty-seven. Friends will please accept this intimation.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, June 1.

There was not much wheat fresh up from the home counties this morning, but, with some portion left over from last week, the show of samples altogether was fair. With a continuance of the most magnificent weather, the trade for the moment is paralysed, and we must note a decline of 8s. to 4s. per qr. on English wheat, and 2s. to 3s. per qr. on foreign, since Monday last, without leading to much business. Barley is per qr. cheaper, and dull. Beans and peas each rather lower. The return of oats for the week is about as small as it has been for some time past. The trade in this article has remained tolerably steady, and the prices realised to-day have shown little variation from the current rates of the previous week.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr.		Per Qr.
WHEAT—	s. d.	PEAS—	s. d.
Essex and Kent,		Grey	43 to 45
red, old	70 to 71	Maple	43 to 45
Ditto new	64 70	White	45 47
White, old	72 75	Boilers	45 47
" new	65 74	Foreign, white ..	44 46
Foreign red	65 68		
" white	68 72	RYE	43 45
BARLEY—		OATS—	
English malting ..	86 88	English feed ..	36 38
Chevalier	89 47	" potatoes ..	30 35
Distilling	87 43	Scotch feed ..	—
Foreign	84 86	" potatoes ..	—
MALT—		Irish black ..	38 36
Pale	—	" white	38 36
Chevalier	—	Foreign feed ..	38 38
Brown	84 68		
BRAND—		FLOUR—	
Ticks	42 45	Town made ..	60 64
Harrow	45 46	Country Marks ..	48 50
Small	—	Norfolk & Suffolk	46 48
Egyptian	43 44		

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, June 1.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; house-hold ditto, 7½d. to 9d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

LONDON, Monday, June 1.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 3,334 head. At the corresponding period in 1867 we received 14,357; in 1866, 11,363; in 1865, 16,911; in 1864, 8,708; in 1863, 5,778; in 1862, 3,323; and in 1861, 7,849 head. There was a fair average supply of foreign beasts on sale here to-day, but of foreign sheep, lambs, and calves the number was very moderate for the time of year. Sales progressed slowly, at drooping prices. The arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were seasonably good, and mostly in prime condition. From Ireland and Scotland the receipts were limited. Nearly all breeds met a slow inquiry at a decline in the quotations, compared with Monday last, of 2d. per 8lbs. The best Scots and crosses sold at 5s. per 11bs. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire were about 2,000 Scots, shorthorns, and crosses; from other parts of England, 450 various breeds; from Scotland, 20 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 70 oxen, cow, &c. There was a large supply of sheep in the pens, the general quality of which was good. The inquiry for all breeds ruled inactive, and, in some instances, prices had a downward tendency. The best Downs and half-breeds sold at 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. Lambs—the show of which was good—moved off slowly, on lower terms—viz., from 7s. per 8lbs. In calves about an average business was doing. The supply was moderate. Prime small porkers were quite as dear as last week, but large hogs were very dull, at last week's currency.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	2	0	3	Prime Southdowns	4	8	4	10
Second quality	3	6	3	10	Lambs	6	0	7	0
Prime large oxen	4	0	4	8	Lge. coarse calves	4	0	4	10
Prime Scots, &c.	4	10	5	0	Prime small	5	0	5	4
Coarse inf. sheep	3	3	3	6	Large hogs	3	4	3	8
Second quality	3	8	4	2	Neatm. porkers	3	10	4	4
Pr. coarse woolled	4	4	4	6					

Buckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 23s. to 26s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, June 1.

Although these markets are but moderately supplied with meat, the demand very inactive, and prices ruled in favour of buyers. Last week's imports into London were only 13 packages from Hamburg.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	0	3	4	Inf. mutton	3	2	3	8
Middling ditto	3	6	3	8	Middling ditto	3	10	4	4
Prime large do.	3	10	4	2	Prime ditto	4	6	4	8
Do. small do.	4	4	4	6	Veal	3	10	4	10
Large pork	3	0	3	6	Lamb	5	8	6	4
Small pork	3	8	4	8					

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, LONDON, Saturday, June 1.—During the past week the supply of goods has been steady, and altogether satisfactory, and there has been a rather better demand for them than has lately been experienced. Good open-air strawberries, both home-grown and French, may now be had, at prices varying from 1s. to 3s. per lb. Of peas and potatoes large cargoes have been received. Spring cauliflowers are excellent, as is also asparagus. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, stocks, lily of the valley, pelargoniums, fuchsias, delphiniums, mignonette, and roses.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, June 1.—Our market is quiet, the business transacted being of the usual consumptive character prevalent at this period of the year; prices, however, rule hardly so firm, owing doubtless in a great measure to the extremely favourable weather experienced of late. Reports from the plantations continue to speak of fly, which, however, does not appear to have materially increased, although it has extended in new directions, and the condition of the bine generally is such as to give every promise of an abundant crop, should the customary drawbacks be successfully encountered. Continental advices continue very favourable as regards the progress of the bine, and the markets generally are pronounced firm. New York letters of the 21st ult. report the market as quiet, with a slight tendency to improve prices, accounts from the various hop sections being on the whole unsatisfactory. Mid and East Kent, 51, 61, 10s., to 71, 10s.; Weald of Kent, 41, 10s., 51, 5s., to 61, 6s.; Sussex, 41, 10s., 51, to 51, 5s.; Farnham and country, 61, 6s., 71, 7s., to 81, 8s.; Yearlings, 31, 10s., 41, to 41, 10s.

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 1.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 413 firkins butter, and 2,937 bales bacon; and from foreign ports, 21,662 casks, &c., butter, and 1,969 bales bacon. The supplies of foreign butter being short for the demand, prices advanced about 6s. per cwt; best Dutch, 96s. to 98s. In Irish, scarcely any business was done. The bacon market ruled very firm, and a further advance of 2s. obtained for the best Waterford; sales made at 78s. free on board.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday June 1.—For new potatoes, the supply of which is tolerably good, there has been a fair demand, at from 15s. to 17s. per cwt for Cornish and 17s. for Jersey. Old produce has been dull of sale, at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 2,324 boxes from Malaga, 13 tons Dunkirk, and 15 cwt. from Boulogne. Regents, 100s. to 130s. per ton; Russets, 130s. to 170s.; rocks, 90s. to 110s.; French, 60s. to 80s.

SEED, Monday, June 1.—There was little English cloverseed offering, and not much passing in any description. Prices of all sorts remained nominally the same as last week. In trefoils no change worthy of notice. Mustard-seed was unaltered in price. Tares for feeding met a fair sale, without any notable change in price.

WOOL, Monday, June 1.—There is very little doing in English wool, and prices rule in favour of buyers. The export demand is altogether nominal, owing to the large quantities purchased on continental account at the present series of colonial wool sales.

OIL, Monday, June 1.—In linseed oil the transactions have been on a limited scale, at reduced quotations. Rape has been dull and drooping. Olive has moved off slowly, and there has been but little inquiry for either cocoa-nut or palm. Petroleum has been in request at firm rates. Turpentine has ruled quiet.

TALLOW, Monday, June 1.—The market is quiet. P. Y. C. on the spot is quoted at 43s. 3d. Town tallow 41s. 3d. nett cash.

COAL, Monday, June 1.—Market firm, at last day's rates. Wallend Hettons 18s. 3d., Haswell 18s. 3d., Hetton Lyons 15s. 3d., Elliott's 16s., Original Hartlepool 18s. 3d., Kelloe 16s., Holywell Main 15s., Wylam 15s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived, 42; ships left from last day, 6. Ships at sea, 50.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—SOCIETY'S SAFEGUARD.—Whatever the disease may be, wherever it may discover itself, whether externally or internally, its victims may enter on Holloway's treatment with hearts of hope that every day will bring some amelioration of the infirmity. For the cure of ulcers, wounds, sores, abrasions, eruptions, abscesses, glandular swellings, and the generality of throat and chest complaints, the ointment need only be used according to the instructions to insure a successful issue to the illness, and a desirable restoration of health and strength. In all disorders which have been of long duration Holloway's pills should be taken; they powerfully stimulate the circulation and raise the feeble nervous energy.

Advertisements.

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, Hornsey Rise, N., for infants of both sexes, and from any part of the kingdom.

Under the immediate patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of WALES.

The ANNUAL MEETING of Governors and Subscribers was held on THURSDAY, May 28th, 1868, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, for the election of twelve infants from a list of thirty candidates.

JOHN KEMP WELCH, Esq., in the chair.

At the close of the Ballot the following were declared to be successful:—

1. Broome, L. F. F.	263	7. Perry, A. J. G.	222
2. Hooker, F. R.	261	8. Ayres, Alice.	201
3. Whittaker, W. B.	242	9. Lyons, Emma.	195
4. Miles, Harry.	239	10. Walcott, C. J.	191
5. Witham, G. T.	231	11. Willgoose, A. S.	168
6. Neve, E. C.	228	12. Weintz, J. J. G.	159

Resolved unanimously:

That the most cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to John Kemp Welch, Esq., for presiding this day; and to the scrutineers for their care in taking the ballot.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

55, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

Contributions are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received. Life subscriber, £5 5s.; life governor, £10 10s. and upwards; annual subscriber, 10s. 6d.; annual governor, £1 1s. and upwards.

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS.—The NEW BUILDINGS will shortly be OPENED by a PUBLIC CEREMONIAL, of which due notice will be given.

FANCY SALE.—Ladies will greatly oblige by sending in their contributions as early as possible. The committee are much encouraged by promises of help from all classes to this interesting charity. Goods to 55, Ludgate-hill; or 11, Boxworth-grove, Islington.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

HENDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES, TUESDAY, June 9.

The Rev. J. STOUGHTON will preach in the afternoon at Three o'clock.

The Rev. W. BROOK, D.D., in the evening at Half-past Six o'clock.

Trains from King's-cross to FINCHLEY and HENDON and EAST END Stations at 2.15 and 5.20 p.m., met by an Omnibus from Hendon. Omnibus from Chalk Farm at 2 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the next Half-yearly Examination for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 29th of June, 1868. In addition to the Metropolitan Examination, Provincial Examinations will be held at Owens College, Manchester; Queen's College, Liverpool; Stonyhurst College; St. Catharine's College, Ushaw; St. Gregory's College, Downside; St. Mary's College, Oscott; and St. Patrick's College, Carlisle.

Every Candidate is required to transmit his Certificate of Age to the Registrar, 17, Saville-row, London, W., at least fourteen days before the commencement of the Examination.

Candidates who pass the Matriculation Examination are entitled to proceed to the Degrees conferred by the University in Arts, Laws, Science, and Medicine. This Examination is accepted (1) by the Council of Military Education in lieu of the entrance Examination otherwise imposed on Candidates for admission to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst; and (2) by the College of Surgeons in lieu of the Preliminary Examination otherwise imposed on Candidates for its Fellowship. It is also among those Examinations of which some one must be passed (1) by every Medical Student on commencing his professional studies; and (2) by every person entering upon Articles of Clerkship to an Attorney,—any such person Matriculating in the First Division being entitled to exemption from one year's service.

WILLIAM B. CARPENTER, M.D., Registrar.

May 29th, 1868.

UNPARALLELED NOVELTIES.—“A

Spiritual Adventurer.”—Everything Floating in the Air.—New Wonders.—Andersen's beautiful story, “The Angel and the Flowers.”—Spiritual Manifestations of a Homely nature; daily at quarter to 3 and quarter to eight.—Professor Pepper on Faraday's Optical Experiments: Rose's Photodrome: The Zoetrope.—George Buckland's Musical Entertainment, “The Marquis of Carabas,” scenes by O'Connor.—The Automatic Lector.—The Abyssinian Expedition.—The Automatic Chess Player.—The Shadow Blondin.—The whole at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—One Shilling.

TO MINISTERS and OTHERS.—The

Directors of a First-class Life Office, combining new and most attractive features, invite application for agencies from gentlemen possessing good connections. The agency is very remunerative, requires but little time or trouble to work, can be made a source of permanent income, and entails no liability or responsibility. For full particulars apply with real name and address to Thomas Bell, 54, Parliament-street, London.

TO GROCERS, &c.—RE-ENGAGEMENT,

by a respectable Young Man, aged 20. 3 years' experience. Willing to make himself useful. Good reference from last employer. Lincolnshire preferred.—C. H. W., Post-office, Epworth, Lincolnshire.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,

A steady, active Youth, as JUNIOR or IMPROVER to the General Drapery trade, who is willing to make himself useful, and accustomed to a pushing trade. Apply by letter, stating age, salary, &c., to S. H. Glade, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, by a Young Person, a Situation

as UNDER NURSE, or to wait on Young Ladies in a Gentleman's family. Age 17; has had four years' experience in Dressmaking. Good references.—Address, L.M., Post-office, Great Leighs, Chelmsford.

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48 and 49, Great Ormond-street, W.C.

Patron—Her Majesty the QUEEN.

This Hospital depends entirely on voluntary support. The 75 Beds are always filled. Out-patients receive advice and medicine free every morning. 500 Children attended on Monday, the 23rd March.

The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS.

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LAI D UP by INJURY, and £1,000 in case of Death caused by Accident of any kind, may be secured by an annual payment of from £3 to £6 5s. to the RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE SOCIETY. Railway accidents alone may also be provided against by insurance tickets for single or double journeys. For particulars apply to the Clerks at the Railway-station, to the local agents, or at the offices, 61, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.

W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

METROPOLITAN DRINKING FOUNTAIN

AND CATTLE-TROUGH ASSOCIATION. 116 fountains and 93 troughs for animals have been erected and are kept in repair and supplied with water by this Society. The Committee are urgently in need of funds to enable them to sustain and extend their work, and they earnestly appeal for help to all who are anxious to promote habits of temperance or to alleviate the sufferings which are experienced by horses, dogs, sheep, and oxen in the streets of London from thirst.

JOHN LEE, Secretary.

Office, 1, Shorter's-court, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

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HAY, HORNS, and WALLER'S NETTINGS.
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 Glass Dinner Services for 12 persons, from £7 15s.
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